

Board Meeting Minutes
Economic Development Corporation of Clark County
December 8, 2009
5:30 p.m., Dawson Cooperative Center

Voting Members Present: Euodias Goza, Frances Nelson, Becky Jester, Conner Eldridge, Lewis Shepherd, Ricky Norton, Neeka Richardson, Phil Baldwin, Damon Daniels, Jerry Walker, Joyce Palla, Sherry Kelly

Advisory Members Present: Kelli Lancaster, Ron Daniell, Percy Malone

Voting Members Absent: Billy Tarpley, Bill Wright, Wendal Ketchum

Advisory Members Absent: Cloys Runyan, Steve Orsburn, Johnnie Roebuck, Randy Stewart

Others Present: Shawnie Carrier, Leslie Bright, Connie Nelson, Todd Turner, Lonnie Jackson, Debbie Sorrells

Proceedings:

Chairman Euodias Goza called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Lonnie Jackson presented a report on the Business Retention and Expansion program. The program officially starts in January, 2010, but already he has had discussions with local businesses and started an inventory of county businesses. He plans to invite business managers to quarterly meetings and to utilize marketing tools from the SBA state office. He intends to look into a business incubator at a future point.

Minutes from meetings on September 22, 2009, and October 7, 2009, were approved with motion by Damon Daniels, second by Neeka Richardson, and unanimous passage.

Lewis Shepherd presented the Treasurer's Report. Conner Eldridge moved to accept September and October's financial reports, Sherry Kelly seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Lewis Shepherd stated the EDCCC will need to employ an auditor for the new year and recommended Malone and Banks again. Conner Eldridge moved to accept the treasurer's recommendation, Damon Daniels seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Lewis Shepherd reported that the Budget Committee recently went before the Quorum Court and gave the court a report of funds awarded to local businesses in 2008-09.

Euodias Goza stated there was no President's Report and asked for Committee Reports, of which there were none.

Shawnie Carrier presented the Executive Director's Report. The EDCCC received a funding request from Danfoss Scroll for a second round of funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 for more training. The funding request was approved with motion by Conner Eldridge, second by Jerry Walker, and unanimous passage.

Shawnie Carrier presented a preliminary funding request from Antoine Hardwoods to add a second phase, a pellet mill, to their business. The request in the amount of \$42,000.00 deviated from the EDCCC's adopted incentive policy due to average wages anticipated. The request did not require action at this time since the business is awaiting results of a feasibility study and a response from AEDC concerning state incentives. Percy Malone recommended a proactive approach to funding requests for business expansion such as this.

Shawnie Carrier presented a report on land, engineering, and elevation surveys. The land the board previously examined for purchase has been deemed to be in a flood plain, thus an elevation study will be required to determine whether or not flood plain status is correct. As for land, this week the EDCCC will close on eight acres of land privately owned near the industrial park. Ten-percent drawings for the transloading facility have been remitted to Union Pacific, and a meeting will be forthcoming with them and Senator Malone.

Damon Daniels reported on the Regional Intermodal Authority. Representing Clark County, Damon Daniels joins Bo Lee from Pike County, Mary Godwin from Nevada County, and Lewis Diggs from Montgomery County. The group is in its beginning stages and will be officially named the Southwest Regional Intermodal Authority. The group has completed an agreement draft and bylaws and has traveled to Little Rock to talk to state representatives. They intend to meet with the pertinent county judges to give them an ordinance to go before each quorum court. The group anticipates completion of corporate status and nonprofit status in January, 2010, and hopes to have its first board meeting in March, 2010. Percy Malone suggested talking to Dallas County about joining the group, and Damon Daniels agreed.

Shawnie Carrier presented to the board the new Alliance website: www.arkadelphiaalliance.com. She reminded them of the upcoming Alliance and Chamber Holiday Open House on December 17 and the scheduled Legislative Reception Lunch on February 16 at Next Level Events.

Lewis Shepherd informed the board that a reception will be held for the renaming of SWATLC on January 28, 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. with a motion by Damon Daniels and second by Lewis Shepherd.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Nelson