

Economic Sub Committee
Meeting February 4, 2008
Minutes divided by specific goals

Strategic Goal Number Five

Jimmy Bolt updated the committee in regards to widening 10th street to become a 2 lane boulevard that is lined with trees. A meeting with an Architect firm occurred in January. Estimates are expected within 2 weeks. Drawings are on hand.

Strategic Goal Number Six

A report of Broadband options available and possible grant opportunities was given. Report will be placed on the website for further review.

Strategic Goal Number Seven

Dr Kluck gave a brief report on contacts he had made in regards to the opportunity of bringing cellulose ethanol production and other value-added wood products to Clark County. Through emails and calls to the National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden, Colorado he was able to make contacts that are very knowledgeable and can assist Clark County in the future. Information is being mailed to Dr. Kluck.

Strategic Goal Number Eight

Hank Wilson who operates the HSU Aviation Dept spoke. The following are specific facts given:

3 degrees are offered:

- Professional Pilot (Airlines) which makes up 95% of Aviation students in the program
- Maintenance (two year program) Student has 2 years education before attending HSU
- Aviation Management

Aviation Dept is self sustaining through student fees maintaining 17 planes (15 owned by HSU Aviation), 4 full time staff, 2 secretaries, 2 mechanics and 10 part time instructors, 5 student workers and 1 Professor Emeritus.

Aviation Dept operates the Arkadelphia Municipal Airport 95 hours per week for the city Presently there are 115 students but the goal of 200 students is attainable if marketed 96% increase in program enrollment from Fall 2006 to Fall 2007
Students pay roughly \$30-\$40,000 over tuition costs for this program.

Goals for the Aviation Dept:

Opportunities to contract with private companies is available to ensure jobs for students

Add jet to be utilized by HSU/OBU staff for additional training for students

Advertise with HSU/OBU and local newspapers offering private flight training to the public

Move airport to allow for expansion

Increase marketing to increase student enrollment

Increase scholarship programs (Currently the dept has one \$500 scholarship annually and another \$500 scholarship every other year)

Feasibility Study is needed to determine the need for a larger airport.

Kevin Sexton with ADEC and Jimmy Bolt discussed grant possibilities of a new airport. The Federal Government will provide 95% and the state of Arkansas will provide the additional 5% of the cost. The opportunity of receiving federal funding would be more feasible if Clark County was establishing a regional airport. There are also airports in Hot Springs and Benton that are close. The fact that the only Aviation degree offered in Arkansas is at HSU.

The committee agreed that a larger airport would have endless possibilities as far as economic development of Clark County.

Strategic Goal Number Ten

Jimmy Bolt reported in regards to the Arkadelphia Sports Complex the Little League fields and soccer fields are complete with the exception of pavement. Blain Smith stated that the Jared Golf Memorial Play Ground was fully funded and in progress of being installed within the complex.

Committee members will review all discussion from prior 3 meetings and will vote at the March 3, 2008 meeting as to short term and long term goals.