

Baraboo Economic Development Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2018

I. Call to Meeting to Order and Note Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Chair Jim Bowers called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Baraboo Municipal Building, 101 South Blvd., Room 205, Baraboo, WI. The meeting was noticed in conformance with Wisconsin State Statutes regarding open meetings.

II. Roll Call

Present: Bowers, Ayar, Bingle, Johnson, Palm, Platt-Gibson, Reppen, Taylor, Wastlund

Absent: Alt, Umhoefer, Caflisch, White

Other: Ed Geick, Patrick Cannon

III. Approve Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented

Palm (1); Platt-Gibson (2)

Aye: All via voice vote

Nay: None

IV. Approve Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes as presented for August 2, 2018 as presented

Taylor (1); Reppen (2)

Aye: All via voice vote

Nay: None

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Old Business

a. Updates on Development Activities

Ed Geick reported on the following:

- 325 Lynn St. building has been removed. Additional site work is underway
- MBE CPAs is relocating their 8th & Broadway St. office
- The current flooding damage is not as bad as previous flood damage.

b. Updates from Plan Commission and Council

Mayor Palm spoke on the following items:

- Governor Walker visited the area to view flooding damages
- Governor Candidate Tony Evers met with the Mayor to discuss his 2018 platform
- The Ad-Hoc Committee regarding the re-writing of the Zoning Ordinance has met
- Honey-Boo Trailers has a zoning request to change from Manufactured homes to Commercial zoning
- The City and Driftless Glen have reached an agreement of their sewer discharge amounts
- The sponsors of the area homeless shelter are moving. A discussion regarding a homeless shelter is scheduled for later this month
- The Wisconsin State Journal has indicated that they erred in their recent story regarding the flooding.

c. Update from economic development partners and collaborators

- Ms. Platt-Gibson spoke about the mental health aspects of the recent flooding.
 - a. The hospital has hired additional staffing in the area of grief assessments
 - b. 270 homes in Sauk County have been damaged due to the flooding.
 - c. All crops damaged due to the floods must be destroyed.

- d. She noted that the suicide rate for farmers is twice the rate of military personnel
- Mr. Bingle indicated that the Crane Foundation was not damaged due to the flood
 - a. The visitors for ICF have been down since Labor Day
 - b. One Sauk Naturally is meeting next week holding their second meeting
- Mr. Taylor indicated that they had a branch office in Rock Springs. That building has been damaged with the recent flooding
 - a. Loan demand has been increasing. They are doing more in the commercial area
- Mr. Reppen indicated that Serve has hired three additional employees.
 - a. The County has also several issues that they are working on including the Nursing Home needs
- Mr. Johnson gave an update on the agriculture crisis within the state. He indicated that over 500 farms ceased operations last year. The price of milk has dropped which helps to compound this problem. He is concerned about the Farmers and their need to find employment once they cease farming. He is also concerned about the mental health of these individuals. The group offered several different ways that BEDC can help in this area.
- Dr. Ayar updated on the start of the school year. He indicated that new signage is being installed to show the connection to UW-Platteville
- Ms. Wastlund gave an update on the recent CDA actions. They will be working on a strategic plan for the CDA
- Mr. Bowers indicated that the road construction in West Baraboo is moving forward.
- d. Consideration of development of a strategic plan for BEDC**
 - i. Ad Hoc Committee on Eastside Corridor Study**
Staff is preparing the document for distribution.
 - ii. Ad Hoc Committee on Business Walk**
A draft report is being circulated for comments before it is sent out. An updated one page report on the signage is also being completed to be issued at the same time.

VII. New Business

The group agreed to hold the October and November BEDC meetings on October 18, 2018

VII. Update Partner Presentation Schedule

No action was taken

VIII. Commissioner and City Staff comments

The Mayor indicated that the County has completed a downtown parking study. He was concerned that they never contacted the City regarding this report.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:04 pm.

Palm (1); Johnson (2)

Aye: All via voice vote

Nay: None