

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday March 4th, 2025 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Don Griffin and Terry Schuster.

Also, present: City Manager Darin DeHaan, City Clerk Cheryl Hilton, Chris Manheim, and Mayor Ken Williams.

Present via Zoom: Mike Delaney, Kim Ewoldsen, Erin Folk, Mike Glenn, and Chance Munroe.

Absent: PJ Caposey, Rebecca Hazzard, and Phil Lehmann.

Don Griffin called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and called roll call. A quorum was present.

No public comment.

Mike Glenn moved to approve the February 4th, 2025 minutes, Seconded by Chance Munroe.

Motion carried. No nays.

Oregon and County Economic Development: Chris Manheim referred the committee to his report. He has been making updates to location 1 as well. City Manager Darin DeHaan said the county economic development group continues to establish a path for the new executive director. They are also strategizing for upcoming projects and working with GIS to create and overlay for available properties.

Business Development Update: Mayor Ken Williams stated work is being done to identify properties on the boundaries of the city for possible developments. Housing and tourism continue to be a priority. City Manager Darin DeHaan said there is potential for a fresh food market in town. Chance Munroe said he met with someone at the Chamber who was interested in information on façade grants and other potential opportunities.

Façade Grant – Beam Beauty Bar – 125 S. 4th Street: The request from the owner of the building is to rehab the back façade of the building and the roof. The committee discussed the purpose of the façade grant. Terry Schuster stated the façade grant was not meant for roof repairs. He would like to see line items for each improvement and the roof repair request removed.

Terry Schuster moved to approve the façade grant for Beam Beauty Bar – 125 S. 4th Street, contingent on the removal of any roof repair work, Seconded by Don Griffin.

Motion carried. No nays.

Young Adult Focus Group: The group consisted of about twenty young adults from the area. They were asked to describe Oregon and what they would like to see in Oregon. The item with the highest priority was a multi-sport facility. Other high priorities to them included housing, river front development, green space, kid friendly spaces and restaurants, short term day care, and downtown events. They also expressed interest in volunteering and staying informed about the community. Mike Delaney said the Ignite Rockford group may be able to help Oregon create access to volunteer opportunities. Chance Munroe said he will reach out for contact information.

Chamber News/Schools/Community Events/CMAAA: Chance Munroe said the Chamber held a Business after Hours event hosted by CMAAA. Jen's Artisan Breads provided food. There were just under thirty people. He talked about trying to engage community members and businesses to grow these events. The Chamber is also working on an event at the Oregon Depot and a shopping event. They are hosting a Lunch and Learn at CMAAA on March 10th that will include presentations from Nicor and ComEd.

Mike Glenn with CMAAA said they had over one hundred people attend the artist's reception. They are holding a creative writing workshop as well as a wool felt making workshop. They also have weekly drawing classes. They currently have about fifty artists with works on display.

Erin Folk with the Oregon Park District said they held the first construction meeting for the Park East improvements. The park district continues to work on the walking path to Lowden. The Aqua Zip 'N will be installed tomorrow, and its grand opening will be held on March 12th. She would like to further discuss the young adult focus groups interest in a multi-sport facility with members of the city.

Mike Delaney said he and Terry Schuster attended the Annual Community and Economic Development Conference last week.

Kim Ewoldsen said March 19th is SBDC day. Sauk Valley Community College will be hosting an open house from 10:30am to 12pm. This will be an opportunity to meet with the Small Business Development team.

Don Griffin spoke regarding the Lunch and Learn hosted by the Chamber. He said he has been working with ComEd for quite some time. They have big cost-saving opportunities. He encouraged others to look into these.

Meeting adjourned at 5:49 PM.

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton