

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – March 21, 2018**

The Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting met in open session in Council Chambers of the City Hall building on Wednesday, March 21, 2018. Mayor CHRIS HAGLOCH called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. The roll was called whereupon the following committee members answered present:

Committee members JAY DOHERTY, JOHN HOSCHEIDT, RYAN LATKO, DANA MURPHY were present. Committee members GERROD ANDRESEN, GARY WAGNER, and NATHAN WICKS were excused. Also present were Mayor of Aledo CHRIS HAGLOCH, City Administrator ERIN KNACKSTEDT, and Economic Development Coordinator TARAH SIPES.

**Approval of Minutes:** LATKO gave a motion to accept the minutes of the February 21, 2018 meeting as submitted, HOSCHEIDT gave the second. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Old Business:**

2018 Summer Billboard Redesign – Daniel Smoldt of Goulash Media brought a design for the Rhubarb Fest billboard to share with the committee. The design received favorable feedback. Smoldt will send SIPES a copy of his concept and a second version that includes suggested revisions for the committee to review for a final decision.

Business Incubator Project – SIPES shared that she had mailed nine packets of information to potential participants this week. These participants include people who had previously requested information and those who were identified based on conversations with members of the organizing committee and their “fit” into the concept of the incubator. SIPES has a list of further people who can be contacted if we are not able to fill the incubator with those who received the packet this week. The same information that was sent in the packet will be made available via the Aledo website in the coming weeks for others who may be interested.

### **New Business:**

Hotel Developers Conference – HAGLOCH went to Minneapolis for a Cobblestone Hotel Developers Conference. He learned a lot and made quite a few connections. He heard things that make him feel like a project would work here and heard others that made him feel like it would not.

### **Aledo Main Street Activity Update:**

MURPHY reported that the final Pop-up shop took place last weekend. There not a great turn out, but vendors seemed to be satisfied with the event and are registered for Rhubarb Fest plus have expressed interest in future opportunities. MURPHY will be meeting with SIPES and Renee Lloyd tomorrow to discuss an idea for county-wide shopping event. Genesis has agreed to pay for and staff two extra golf carts for Rhubarb Festival. AMS and the Mercer Foundation for Health are planning an ovarian cancer program for later this year. Two new programs that are in the works are painting and flower arranging parties that will happen this spring/early summer.

**Economic Development Activity Update:**

SIPES reported on information from the 6 County Fast Pitch Competition and the IIRA Rural Economic Development Conference. Additional activity information is included in the report.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Adjournment:** HOSCHEIDT made a motion to adjourn the meeting, MURPHY gave the second. A unanimous voice vote adjourned the meeting at 7:42pm.