

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017
VERSAILLES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Brice Lake.

Present were: Dustin Lehman, Laura Cabrera, Joyce Ryerson, Cory Ten Beuzer, Luke Campbell, Becky Lehman, Mignon Dureka.

Guests were: Neal & Elisha Gist, friends of Laura Cabrera

Agenda & Minutes of the June, 2017 meeting were reviewed. No changes. Accepted as read.

Marketing Update: Laura working on Search Engine.

MCDC Update: Cory reported MCDC reinstated with state of Mo. Brice received formal request letter from attorney. Money for EDC only, with separate bank account, to be used as needed.

Brice will contact Linda Conner of Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments (LOCOLG) for forms on updating locations.

Brice unable to contact James Bryant or Mayor Silvey to set up a meeting regarding City's Long Range plans, always out of office or unavailable. He will ask Linda Conner to work on that.

Jamie attended a meeting on transportation needs for Miller & surrounding counties. 18,000 population difference between Miller & Morgan counties. 4pm on 8/10/17 at Laurie Care Center will be another transportation meeting to address Morgan County needs. Jason Mousier looking into grant monies available. Matt Davis of Eldon, also.

Brice attended VCB meeting 8/7/17.. Morgan County Food Pantry opened at new site, 303 West Newton. Save-A-Lot stored their products during transition and housed \$5,000 worth of product for them. Distribution is 4 times a month, rather than once a month, servicing 276 households in June to 40 in July. Hurts tax revenues and sales. No limitations on receiving food; just be a resident of Morgan County. No proof of income required. Brice contacted Lynn Wehmeier of Mo. Dept of Economic Development, finding out that this is not the norm for food distribution. He recommends focus for EDC & Betterment Committee is to work with residents – lifting them out of poverty by : resume building, how to fill out job applications, how to answer interview questions, use of Morgan County R-II computer labs, classes at the Chamber office, building websites for businesses, social media, use of Face Book/ Twitter. Suggestions: purchase a big building, open 24-7, use of computers to apply for jobs. Laura suggests a building in historic & charming downtown for better opportunities.

Joyce reported that their June retreat focused on setting goals for college readiness. Consider mentors for students for better interest. Camdenton offers health care field, boat mechanics. Eldon offers mechanics, technician jobs, construction trade. We should do the same. SATs now are not paid for by State of Mo., Morgan County R-II will pay for them. ACT scores should be included on resumes from students. Crackdown on students who are to graduate requiring a 90% attendance for that year. Otherwise, won't walk at graduation.

Jamie said Skills Set program in Camdenton offers computer package. Consider a career

program in the Spring – What it takes to become a bank manager, bring people in to do mock interviews, here's how to answer an interview question, work on soft skills – your presentation to the interviewer. Window work with a job fair & a college fair, said Laura.

Cory complimented Laura and friends for the fiber optics they have taken advantage of thru Co-Mo, spreading the word, here's a job you don't have to go to college for. Laura works for Op End Monster.

Jamie commented young people don't want to move away from here, but want a good job. Change people's mentality – be global from here. We have a walk able downtown, accessible, Bees Knees and Gilberts are of the young people's age group, stay here and have money to spend here. Loft apartments and housing in Versailles – no infrastructure.

Chamber to pursue buildings of locals; renovate for renters. This would be an investment. Look for businesses to attract 25 or less people. Cory said LOCOLG can assist us with grant components, low interest loans.

August 24, Lake Regional is hosting an Open House for the opening of the Eldon Clinic expansion, 5pm, 416 Maple Street.

Lynn Wehmeier, Central Mo. Workforce Coordinator to assist. Let her know what we need for grants in our underserved area. 573-526-7966. Lynn.wehmeier@ded.mo.org Laura has been talking with USDA about Community Service Grants.

Long Range Plan: Make out a business plan. What attracts people: fiber internet, better wages, remote, more skill set, low overhead, diamond in the rough, think smaller businesses, but don't think small, small business outlets, like the spec building in Jefferson City. Increase technology and service, is no longer a brick & mortar building. What attracted Eric & Elisha: off the grid, no building codes, affordable land, trees. Laura said most computer programmers are Libertarians. Brice said to host a "start up event" perhaps with Audie Walton and Randy Washburn, yearly, perhaps at the Library, A casino in Gravois Mills or a Motel 6 in Versailles? Cory said in Alma, Nebraska where he is from, there were 25 city investors who contributed to building a Super 8 Motel. We need a 2 acre site with utilities, available location and good road access. Laura said Face book ads for \$10 each going out to 100 people can generate 3,000 hits. It's our own co-op with different investors.

Locations Update: Brice & Laura to followup on locations and pricing. Apps from Linda; Joyce on work force development; Lynn – avenues to explore on developers. Rock Island Line meeting is August 11 in Jeff City \$20 per person. Jamie & Luke may go.

Next meeting September 12, 7pm.