

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Directors
Solomon Valley Economic Development, Inc. (SVED)**

January 21, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Directors of SVED was held at 12:30 o'clock p.m., at the North Central Regional Planning Commission Meeting Room, Basement Meeting Room, Beloit, Kansas for the regular monthly meeting on February 21, 2019. Members and guests attending were, to-wit:

- **Board:** Larry White, Lydia Housh, Tom Claussen, Harry McGrath, Julia Rabe, Mark Palen, and Robert Lampert.
- **Members & Guests:** James Lambert, Lucille Heller, Jason Rabe, Charles Frodsham, Kent Miller, John Cashatt, Barb Wise and Heather Hartman.
- **Officers Present:** Curt Frasier and Mike Thompson.
- **Officers Absent:** Robert Davis.
- **Board Members Absent:** Ryan Duskie, Gaylene Sorell, Jim Gates, Gene Pestinger and Brent Cunningham.

- Minutes of January 17, 2018 were approved by mail and email.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report prepared by Robert Davis was given.

BELOIT MOTOR CO.: Caleb Bowers was introduced as the new Manager of Beloit Motor Co. to the members. The dealership recently was given approval by GM for the sale of the business and new vehicles coming next.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT: Heather Hartman gave her monthly report.

Heather reported that Shopko has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. She reported our store is one of the more profitable stores in the area but unfortunately all Kansas Shopko stores are closing. Our Shopko is scheduled to close on May 9th and our store is the last to close in Kansas.

Heather reported the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development will host a Department Commerce Economic Regional meeting at the NCK Tech on February 26th. Dan Steffen and James Foster from the Department of Commerce will be there as well as Eric Burks, President of NCK Tech. KDOR will speak about running legal lotteries and raffles in Kansas. SVED will be sponsoring rolls and snacks for the meeting.

Heather reported on applying for Network KS. Heather did a webinar regarding programming, revolving loan funds and are currently applying for this grant. She indicated that 20 communities will be vying for 1 grant available. It was discussed that if our area is not awarded this grant, local boards can do provide a similar program on their own if they wanted to.

The Façade Improvement Program is currently available to businesses for improvements made to store fronts. Grant funds range from \$1000 to \$5000 in size. Currently there are 5 businesses participating in this program.

Heather reporting there will be the Beloit Strategic Doing Session held coming up on March 12th, March 20th, & March 25th. This has been divided into four groups to discuss downtown improvements, Chautauqua Park, pedestrian trails and improvements and signage to Beloit.

Heather has been informed by Barrett Simon from the Kansas Research and Extension is planning a Bull Sale / Stock Growers Event in Beloit on March 26th and 27th. He is planning on a day of vendors, which is now up to 30 vendors, speakers, reception dinner in the evening as well as the sale itself. This will all be held at the Mitchell County Fairgrounds. It is \$15 to attend the reception/dinner.

Heather reported about the Dane Hansen Summer Intern. She interviewed two interns and could only choose one. She asked the group if they would be interested in sponsoring the second intern. Motion was made by Robert Lampert to approve sponsoring the second intern with Mike Thompson seconding the motion.

Heather informed the members it had been awhile since the group had an out of town meeting. She had visited with Nick Jensen from Trapper Joe's in Simpson. The group decided to meet there for their March 21st meeting with lunch being at noon with the meeting to follow. Reminders will be sent out to RSVP for lunch.

TOURISM: Lucille Heller reported that Downs Story Telling this year will be the same time as the MCHS Auschwitz presentation at the museum. They plan to advertise together to help both events promote visitors. Lucille has been working with the Waconda Cultural Association serving as a board member. The group applied for a Dane Hansen grant to repair the springs and they have received \$20,000. They are in hope to have this project completed by summer. Part two of this project is to add a view finder. They also received a grant from SVCF. They are planning on placing buoys on the lake to mark the Springs area in the lake. Lucille indicated it costs \$25 to become a member of the Waconda Cultural Association. She indicated there are plans at the lake on July 6th for a concert, Dueling Pianos with a sand volleyball tournament and a beer garden.

Lucille has been working with Julia Rabe and David Dubbert to get people to spend the night for the upcoming 8 Man Football Games. They are possible working on a video of the kids and a meal the night before.

Lucille reported that she is working on open times for the Little Red School House for the spring and summer months.

Lucille informed the group that the 2019 Travel Magazine is now out. She is going to distribute to 4th graders in the area to study travel in Kansas.

Lucille reported that the Mitchell County Tourism group will host an area tourism meeting in March. This meeting will consist around 15 people from surrounding counties to discuss tourism in the area.

Lucille has been participating in the strategic doing sessions and is involved in the Chautauqua Park planning portion.

Lucille reported that Ringneck Ranch was recently received award from the State of Kansas for the most visited Ranch in Kansas.

SOLOMON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: Heather Hartman reviewed with the group of the recent grants awarded. There were 27 applications received and \$52,000 in grants awarded. There was another grant recently awarded to the Glen Elder Library in the amount of \$59,000 to purchase the former Hebrew's restaurant to house a new library. Next round of applications are due by August 1, 2019.

LEADERSHIP MITCHELL COUNTY: Curt Frasier reported Leadership Mitchell County Class 19 will visit Topeka and Manhattan on in March.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Julia Rabe passed around old newspapers from 1977 about the downtown Beloit area for the members to read. Julia spoke about the sound system for the downtown area. They have received some funds for the SVCF towards the project but not enough to fund the entire project. The Chamber is planning on applying for another grant to supplement the project more. Lydia Housh made a motion for SVED to donate \$3000 towards this project with Gaylene Sorell seconding the motion.

OTHER: Lydia Housh of Becker Autos, Trailers and Campers reported to the group that their business is having a ribbon cutting March 15th to their new RV and Sporting Goods store at 10:00 with a Chamber Coffee from 9-10:00. An open house is planned for March 15, 16 & 17th.

The next meeting will be held on March 21, 2019 at the Trapper Joe's in Simpson, Kansas. Lunch will be at Noon with the Regular Meeting to follow. Please plan to attend. There being no further business to come before the meeting, the regular meeting was adjourned.

Diana Marcotte, Reporting