

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Directors  
Solomon Valley Economic Development, Inc. (SVED)  
March 21, 2019**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of SVED was held at Trapper Joe's Simpson, Kansas for lunch at noon and the regular monthly meeting following on March 21, 2019. Members and guests attending were, to-wit:

**Board:** Ryan Duskie, Larry White, Tom Claussen, Gaylene Sorell, Brent Cunningham, Harry McGrath, Julia Rabe and Robert Lampert.

**Members & Guests:** Dennis Lutgen, Lucille Heller, Jason Rabe, Charles Frodsham, Kent Miller, Barb Wise, Terry Bailey and Heather Hartman.

**Officers Present:** Curt Frasier and Mike Thompson.

**Officers Absent:** Robert Davis.

**Board Members Absent:** Lydia Housh, Mark Palen, Jim Gates and Gene Pestinger.

Minutes of March, 2019 were approved as forwarded by mail and email and corrected Gaylene Sorell was in attendance for the March 21, 2019 meeting and the wrong date of the meeting should have reflected February 21, 2019 instead of January 21, 2019.

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

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT:** Heather Hartman gave her monthly report.

Heather reported on the Dane Hansen Summer Intern for this summer. She reported last month that the two interns interviewed have accepted to come to Beloit for the summer positions to work under the community development office. The City of Beloit will also have a summer intern. These interns will come to our monthly meetings.

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. Tipton Grocery got a new awning, Kettle a sign and Lock It Technologies is getting a face lift to their new building. There is still \$1000 to be loaned out if any party is interested in this program.

Beloit Motor Company is now known as Beloit Buick GMC. They are remodeling their building. Work has begun also in the garage with some remodeling and updates of equipment. There are plans for making an apartment for Caleb Bowers over the showroom area as well.

Heather reported to the group that the old Krone's Service Center has sold. She is also currently working with six new businesses interested in our area.

Heather applied for the Network KS Program. She is waiting on news on that program.

The CDBG Program Housing Rehab Program area has been determined to run from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> street from Chestnut to Central. This will include 12 rehab projects and two demos. Landlords can also do a match to do this program.

Heather and Julia have been working on a link on the Chamber of Commerce website for employers to post job openings. This will hopefully help employers find employees to fill job openings. They get many requests each month and this will hopefully help in filling some of these requests.

Heather reported on the Beloit Strategic Doing Session recently held. This has been divided into four groups to discuss downtown improvements, Chautauqua Park, pedestrian trails and improvements and signage to Beloit. Julia has recently applied for a Dane G. Hansen grant for the downtown sound system. It was discussed about identifying vacant buildings and developing a contract with the City to take down old signage and developing vinyl wraps for old windows that have historical pictures/photos. It would make the appearance of the vacant buildings more appealing. Jason Rabe has been involved in the Walking/Bike Committee. Plans for the trail will include it going south of town along the sewer plant property. Signage, sharing ideas with other counties, the summer intern is to work on design ideas for the signs.

Simpson Strategic Doing has been geared towards Parks and Playgrounds as there are 81 residents in Simpson and 35 of them are children. They have been using the Buddy Louthan Foundation monies to do many of the improvements to the town.

Heather reported Cawker City is looking at implementing a sales tax to make improvements to their town.

Glen Elder Library was able to purchase the Hebrews for \$59,000.00 thanks to a Dane Hansen Grant. Ryan Duskie stated the old library will be available for a rental since the library was moving. He stated the Hebrews building will be a newer and nicer building for the library.

Heather reported the Northwest Remote work Program available through the Dane Hansen Foundation is interested in helping individuals interested in coding, computer programming from home. This program trains the individuals in either 3 or 6 month training programs. Starting wages are around \$50,000.00. Some of the areas include bookkeeping, sales executive, graphic design. Hansen Foundation will pay for the training. Heather went on to discuss the possibility of developing a work space where people could come and work together but on their separate businesses. Scandia currently has developed a similar building for people to work out of. Heather asked the group if they were interested in exploring this and finding a building that work for this type of office work. There would be a need for a copier, conference room, small meeting room to meet with clients, etc. She stated it is a trend that more and more people work from home. Please let Heather know if anyone would be interested.

Heather reminded the group of the upcoming stock growers meeting to be held at the Mitchell County Fairgrounds on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

The new media marketing sessions will be held next week. Lots of interest has been shown in this program. Participant pays \$25 and SVCF pays for the remainder of the costs.

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 9<sup>th</sup> and our store will be the last to close in Kansas. Dennis Lutgen spoke to the group regarding the availability of the store area. He is willing to offer free rent in lieu of the person paying the taxes up to three years.

**TOURISM:** Kent Miller and Lucille Heller reported on Tourism. Tourism is picking up for spring. On April 25<sup>th</sup> there will be the Auschwitz Presentation at the Mitchell County Museum and the Downs Story Telling Festival will be held at the same time. They have advertised together hoping to encourage people to attend both events. Auschwitz Presentation, Memorial Weekend, Millaploozza and other area events are to be listed on the state website. Lucille passed out the 2019 Travel Magazine to the members. Lucille had a bus trip contact her that was coming to the area through Kansas Farm Bureau. They are young farmers and ranchers that are visiting, Ringneck Ranch, Osborne Industries, Thompson Tire, AGCO and asked to visit the Waconda Visitors Center. They requested a person from the lake do a program on the conservation of the dam and lake. Lucille reminded the members that Hopewell Church can be rented for a meeting place. Food could be catered in.

The Waconda Cultural Association in conjunction with the July 6<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Display are planning a concert with Dueling Pianos and a Beer Garden. Lucille will be going to Lucas for a meeting on Limestone History next week.

Lucille has been assisting with a highlight video for the 8-man games coming up. She informed the members there will be an article in the paper coming up about recruiting volunteers to host the Little Red School house.

A NCK Tourism meeting is scheduled next week. Julia Rabe and Heather Hartman are helping Lucille with the Bull Sale Event. Lucille recently helped with a long range shooting event at Ringneck Ranch. Lucille informed the members there are pictures of Asherville and Simpson on the website for viewing. Kent Miller will fill the position of Bob Severance to the board.

Nick and April Jensen are the current owners of Trapper Joe's located in Simpson, Kansas. Trapper Joe's hours of operation are 11-8 W T F S and 11-2 Sunday. The meal today was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will be held on April 18, 2019 at the North Central Regional Planning Commission Meeting Room, 109 North Mill, Beloit, Kansas 67420. There being no further business to come before the meeting, the regular meeting was adjourned.

Diana Marcotte, Reporting