

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Directors  
Solomon Valley Economic Development, Inc. (SVED)  
September 19, 2019**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of SVED was held at the North Central Regional Planning Commission Basement Meeting Room, Beloit, Kansas on September 19, 2019. Members and guests attending were, to-wit:

**Board:** Lydia Housh, Gene Pestinger, Gaylene Sorell, Robert Lampert, Tom Claussen, Ryan Duskie, Harry McGrath.

**Members & Guests:** Heather Hartman, Lucille Heller, Amanda Horn, John Cashatt, Charles Frodsham, David Neubert, Doug McKinney and Gretchin Staples.

**Officers Present:** Curt Frasier and Robert Davis.

**Officers Absent:** Mike Thompson

**Board Members Absent:** Mark Palen, Jim Gates, Julia Rabe, Larry White and Brent Cunningham.

Minutes of August 15, 2019 were approved as forwarded by mail and email. Motion was made by Lydia Housh and Gene Pestinger to approve. Motion carried.

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

**LMC:** Curt Frasier reported it was LMC's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He also reviewed the first session that was held at Ringneck Ranch recently. Barry Flichbauch, Doug Lindahl and Ron Wilson have presented for 20 years. Lucille Heller spoke that this was all started by Curt Frasier and other KARL Members in 1999. Curt added that there are over 300 graduates to date.

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

Heather informed the members that Mitchell County Tourism and the Beloit Area Chamber of Commerce plans on applying for an intern again for next summer.

The Youth Entrepreneurship program was awarded \$4,000.00 in funding for the program. It is planned to have a fair in the spring, possibly in March. It is planning to offer cash prizes with the top winner to go onto a state competition. Heather will be looking for mentors for this program such as teachers at each school.

ROZ – Rural Opportunity Zone program has 10 people currently on the list, 2 pending and 8 on the wait list. There are 15 employer sponsored individuals at the current time.

Heather reported she has been working with the City of Simpson, NCRPC and the Louthan Family Funds in considering the development of a community building.

Heather Hartman stated the City of Cawker City will be involved in a First Impressions program with Holyrood. This is the same program that Beloit and Clay Center did after years ago where they visit each other's communities and make suggestions on how they can improve. Cawker City has two more retail stores being renovated by Bill and Pam Brummer. They are developing a retail store and a visitor's center.

Façade Improvement Program now has an additional \$25,000 available for store front improvements. Currently there are 8 active projects.

Heather spoke about the Destination Boot Camp regarding marketing to be held in Longmont Colorado in 2020. She has acquired funding to help send individuals from our area for that program.

**RURAL AND REMOTE:** Gretchin Staples, the Northwest Regional Coordinator of Rural and Remote spoke to the group. She began her duties on August 1, 2019. This is a program that educates individuals to work from home. It hopefully will keep people in our region. You can apply for Rural and Remote Training through Gretchin and the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. This program is available to individuals that live in the Dane G. Hansen

area west of Highway 81 and North of Interstate 70 in NW Kansas. The kinds of jobs that would benefit from these are varied but include graphic design, healthcare and administrative assistance to name a few.

Gretchin has 24 people go through the program in July, 10 in August and 20 have signed up for October. She works with them to find jobs as well. She said we have good internet access here which is a plus and a shared work space would be a good thing for the community to develop.

Heather recently attended a Dane G. Hansen workshop. Half of the workforce by 2020 will be performing some work from home. Businesses need to recognize and explore this option.

Individuals can apply for the program through Gretchin. This program is 230-500 hours total and Dane G. Hansen Foundation will pay for an employee to do this. She is developing a database with regional employees available.

**SOLOMON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:** Heather Hartman reported that recently \$44,000 in grant were awarded. One of the grants awarded provided for the filming of Millapalooza by St. John's Students, Trap Team for 31 students at local schools and Tech College, Jewell Gun Club where they practice, NCK Wellness Center, LC Energy Project, Beloit Arts, Youth Entrepreneurship, City of Beloit Golf Disc, 273 School District 3-D Printer, 273 School District Weight Room and others. December 1, 2019 is the next available round with grants being awarded in February, 2020.

**TOURISM:** Lucille Heller discussed tourism projects. She discussed fall events in the area, Chautauqua Isle of Lights and Beloit Community Concert Series will be starting soon. Lucille informed the members of the Prairie Ridge Barn event center located near the Glen Elder State Park. This offers for a place functions such as weddings, etc. At this point you have to bring in your own catering. This event center is able to accommodate 150 people. They are planning for a Haunted Barn event for kids on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Waconda Cultural Association is sponsoring a storytelling even on October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Glen Elder State Park as well.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:** In the absence of Julia Rabe, Director of the Beloit Area Chamber of Commerce, Heather Hartman spoke about the upcoming Chamber Coffee to be held at the Farmway Credit Union on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Millapalooza went well, car show, lazer tag, street dance of King Midas and the Mufflers got rained out but played as long as they could. Julia is currently sending out information to update the Mitchell County Directory. Interns did new covers for the directory which includes a map and links for the website and the Beloit Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Millapalooza event for next year is set for September 7, 2019. There will be a winewalk and beer garden along with the car show as before. King Midas Band is to perform in the evening.

**MITCHELL COUNTY:** Tom Claussen spoke about the recent Asherville Celebration of 150 years, good event. It was a good event.

**CITY OF GLEN ELDER:** Ryan Duskie reported to the group that new entrance signs for Glen Elder have been placed at the entrances to the city.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting which will be the annual meeting will be held on **October 17, 2019** at the North Central Regional Planning Commission Meeting Room, 109 North Mill, Beloit, Kansas 67420 beginning at 12:30 p.m. There being no further business to come before the meeting, the regular meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Diana Marcotte, Reporting