

BEND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Subject: MINUTES

Date: June 9, 2015

The Bend Economic Development Advisory Board held its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2015, in the Council Chambers at 710 NW Wall Bend, OR. The meeting was called to order at 8:04 AM by Chair Corwin.

Those present included:

Committee: Wally Corwin
Wendy McGrane
Dan McCarthy
Erich Schultz
Stephanie Senner
Katie Tank
Dale VanValkenburg
Robyn Sharp
Doug LaPlaca
Tim Casey

Guests: Joe Ditzler, Bend Bulletin; Liz Casey, East Cascades Workforce Board

Staff: Carolyn Eagan, Economic Development Director; Jon Skidmore, Assistant City Manager; Rose Schaefer, Accounting and Financial Reporting Manager; Jennifer Engels, Senior Administrative Specialist

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes from May 2015

Member VanValkenburg moved to approve the minutes of May 5, 2015. Member Senner seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Economic Development Department Update

Mr. Skidmore, Assistant City Manager, announced that Ms. Eagan had been appointed Economic Development Director and will have a 5 person department, including herself. He provided a history of the former economic development department, its dissolution, and the need for the department to be re-formed. Mr. Skidmore asked for input on the Bend Business Advocate (BBA) position which will be vacated by Ms. Eagan. Committee members feel it is important for business in Bend to have an advocate. Successes under Ms. Eagan's time as advocate were enumerated, and the importance of continuing this link with the business community, EDCO, and Visit Bend stressed. Ms. Eagan believes that communication and the business registration program are the roles of the BBA going forward. A future date will be scheduled to discuss the roles of BEDAB and the Bend Business Advocate. Decisions will be made on the recommendations at that time. Members are asked to be ready to discuss these issues.

System Development Charge 0% Financing

Ms. Eagan reviewed the discussion outlined in the February 2015 minutes. Member Senner moved to support the staff recommendation to allow the 0% financing to expire. Member McGrane seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

System Development Charge 9 Month Deferral

This deferral was offered as an incentive for residential, single family development and has been used by a few developers. It expires in August. A great deal of staff time is required to process new applications. It was agreed that Ms. Eagan would reach out to those who use this and inform them that it might expire. Members also agreed to determine if builders they know are aware of the program. The issue will be reviewed by the Advocacy Sub-Committee at its June meeting.

EDCO Update

Ms. Sharp distributed and reviewed the *EDCO June 2015 Monthly Report and Strategic Projects and Events* handout. Ms. Sharp was asked to investigate reasons businesses select locations other than Bend and share those with the Board. Redmond offering bigger incentives and having cheaper land than Bend are two reasons mentioned. Career Technical Education programs in Redmond and La Pine and National Career Readiness certification were discussed. The importance of fiber utility and the 120 day permitting time which is inhibiting business was discussed.

Going forward, updates from EDCO, Visit Bend, and the Chamber will be on a rotating basis. Small Business Development Center may participate in the updates, as well.

Member Tank left the meeting.

East Cascades Workforce Board Update

Liz Casey of the Board updated changes to the Oregon Workforce Alliance which distributes federal funds to providers in Oregon who offer workforce education. New regulations will be more stringent. Training must be business driven, locally driven and tracked by sector growth, completion and employment in that field. She explained the extensive area covered by the Board and the Board's commitment to serving all cities, most of which are small, rural cities. Workforce development will now specifically target training for sector jobs in a short period of time. Ms. Casey outlined the membership of the Board and plans for acquiring training partners. Members were urged to contact Ms. Casey with recommendations for those who might want to participate in action teams for the area. Funding and budgeting were discussed.

Financials

Ms. Eagan reviewed the current financials as of May 31, 2015.

Bend Tech Alliance was awarded the Cluster Initiative Funding. First funds will be dispersed before the end of June.

Members McCarthy and McGrane left the meeting.

Good of the Order

- June 16 meeting will cover UGB issues.
- July 7 meeting will include SDC follow-up from Advocacy Sub-Committee and sharing of thoughts on the year in review. Members should be prepared to do this.
- July 21 meeting will be cancelled.
- August meetings will be cancelled.
- Members Tank, McGrane, and VanValkenburg have expressed interest in re-appointment.

Adjournment

Chair Corwin adjourned the meeting at 9:58 AM.