



Notice of Economic Development/Connect Communities Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 2, 2017
9:00 A.M.

Boulder Junction Community Center, Nordlof Room
5392 Park Street, Boulder Junction, WI 54512

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER at 9:04 a.m. by Chairperson, Colleen Swanson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call: Laura Bertch, Steve Coon, Nikki Kassien, Wendi Neupert, Theresa Smith & Colleen Swanson; a quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Nikki Kassien moved to amend the Agenda to include the resignation email from Eric Johnson. Theresa Smith seconded and the motion carried. Wendi Neupert moved to approve the amended Agenda. Laura Bertch seconded and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 5, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Wendi Neupert moved to approve the minutes. Laura Bertch seconded and the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM 4: WELCOME GUEST(S): no guests were in attendance

AGENDA ITEM 5: WELCOME SPECIAL ADVISORS:

Darrin Wasniewski, Downtown Development Program Manager, WEDC; Chris Stark, Community Resource Educator, UWEX and Jim Rosenberg, Region 3 Economic Development Director, WEDC were welcomed.

6) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) An update of the Walking Tour completed by Wendi Neupert, Colleen Swanson, Theresa Smith, Steve Coon and Cherie Smith (no quorum present) of businesses/store fronts around Main Street on 10/11/2017 began with Wendi going over some of the notes she made while touring. Her comments included the percentage of open businesses in comparison with those presently not in operation, as well as the number of businesses for sale. The discussion also addressed comments made in the survey about the empty garages on and near Main Street and the appearance of a number of non-operational businesses. As Cherie had a meeting elsewhere, Colleen covered some of Cherie's notes, which also mentioned the number of empty store fronts, the facades of some of the businesses and the appearance of the garages.

Colleen noted how many morning walkers she sees on Main Street. Discussion led to the coming winter and the lack of cleared sidewalks around Main Street in winter; what was or was not being done to keep pedestrians safe and out of the street. Since many absentee owners did not maintain their sidewalks, as a committee, could we make a recommendation to the Town Board? It was noted other communities enforce snow clearing with fines and this had been suggested previously. Would a Main Street Service Plan be feasible?

The visiting advisors stated a number of communities address the appearance of the "Main Street" area through various programs, including incentives and ordinances. A successful economic

development has to include an appealing Main Street district that will continue to attract new business.

b) Economic Development Survey

- 1) Strategic Planning: Darrin offered to help with a program he calls Strategic Doing. After participating in a Main Street Webinar, Colleen asked Darrin his opinion regarding creating a Board instead of remaining as a committee. Darrin felt we should remain as a steering committee and act in an advisory capacity.

With the results of the survey targeting Broadband, affordable housing and filling store fronts as the top 3 issues to be addressed, Darrin and Chris suggested several contacts at the state level that might be able to help. Several grant programs were also mentioned.

Darrin and Chris also noted Boulder Junction has many outdoor amenities and has always been a destination town. Having more social businesses/attractions and job opportunities that appeal to younger wage-earners are likely to bring more permanent residents to the area.

- 2) Student Survey: Theresa Smith recommended a work group be formed to break down some of the survey into buckets, before asking Doug Potts to assist with the final format. Theresa will contact several committee members for a date to get together.

AGENDA ITEM 6: NEW BUSINESS

- a) Discussion regarding future projects and goals of BJED/CC Committee: Ideas included Pop-Up business opportunities, teen involved entertainment and contacting business experts living part or full-time in our community to join the discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 7: CONFIRM DATE, TIME & LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the BJED/CC Committee is Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADJOURN

Motion was made by Nikki Kassiento adjourn the meeting at 11:13 a.m. Steve Coon seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Colleen Swanson,
Chairperson of BJED/CC Committee