

RREC Advisory Board Meeting

Note: Meeting was held at the Rolla City Council Chambers, Rolla, MO
February 21, 2014 – 8:00 a.m.

Attending voting members: Candace Connell, Wayne Parry, Keith Strassner, Robert Teresso, Ben Tipton, Randy Verkamp, and Mike Woessner.

Absent voting members: Shad Becker, Dusty Cruise, Jeff Davis, Stevie Kearsse and Lou Magdits.

Guests: Mayor William S. Jenks, III, Julie Crowley and Carol Pennington from Mercy Group, County Commissioner Gary Hicks, Council person Sue Eudaly, Tony Floyd with Intercounty Electric, Sherry Tune with Division of Employment Security, Walt Branson Vice-Chancellor of Administrative Services with Missouri S&T, John Butz Rolla City Administrator, Floyd Ferrell with Realty Executives and Jill Fahrenholtz.

Call to order: President Wayne Parry called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

President Parry asked the board members to review the March minutes which had been sent electronically prior to this meeting. After a brief discussion a change was noted in the minutes a **motion was made by Strassner and seconded by Verkamp to approve the minutes with amended changes. A voice vote on the motion showed seven ayes, zero nays, five absent. Motion carried.**

Presentation

William Jenks, Mayor City of Rolla, presented the presentation regarding “Unfunded Mandates and How They Affect Communities”.

Mayor Jenks discussed how the Clean Air Act of 1963 is making a major impact on the different communities. The Mayor stated that even though a community can be in compliance at the time of inspection; changes may have been made immediately after the inspection - causing that certain community to not meet the regulations that were originally signed-off on. This has cost cities thousands of dollars to correct. The Mayor gave the example of St. James having a large cattle farm on the property next to their treatment facility. The drainage from the cattle farm can possibly cost St. James extra monies in order to keep in compliance with the EPA.

Mayor Jenks also spoke about the rising costs of utilities and how it affects the citizens of Rolla. The Mayor stated that it is anticipated by the year 2020 citizens can expect to have a 70% increase in utility costs. The Mayor expressed his concerns for our citizens. He stated that citizens are having difficulty making ends meet and the possibility of higher utilities is devastating to our area. The Mayor stated that utility companies are asking for input from citizens on ideas to keep the cost of the average family utilities affordable. The Mayor encouraged everyone present to respond to any surveys they are subject to - in hopes of helping the citizens of Rolla maintain utility expenses.

Questions were entertained from the audience before the presentations was concluded.

New Business:

- Director Lorey brought to the table information regarding Ed Clayton (Chief Executive with Phelps County Regional Medical Center (PCRMC). Director Lorey explained that Mr. Clayton

was being nominated to the RREC Board on his own accord and not due to the fact that he works at PCRMC. Mr. Clayton is nominated to fill the vacancy on the Board.

After a brief discussion a motion was made to appoint Ed Clayton to the RREC Board. The motion was made by Woessner and seconded by Tipton to accept the nomination to the Board. **A voice vote on the motion showed seven ayes, zero nays, five absent. Motion carried.**

Old Business:

- Director Lorey gave a brief update on the TOPZA project. Director Lorey stated that she has worked diligently to obtain information regarding the project. The Director stated that three visits have been made to the headquarters and Governor Nixon has also called to obtain information. Recently the Director sent an email to inquire of the status and received an immediate response that the company is still interested in Rolla. The Director stated that this is good news since Indiana is out of the running and the other possibility is not located in the United States. Director Lorey felt the project was headed in a positive direction.
- Keith Strassner stated that Boeing Aviation is opening an office in the MS&T Tech Park. One full-time Boeing employee from the St. Louis office will be housed at the Tech Park. This employee is expected to be on-board by April 1, 2014 and it is hopeful that in time the number of employees from Boeing will expand.
- President Parry asked Director Lorey to give a brief update regarding the Cantex building. Director Lorey stated that the building has degenerated and become an eye-sore to the area. The RCDC is entertaining the idea of purchasing the building in order to make the building marketable. After a brief discussion, Director Lorey stated that if RCDC takes possession of the building – the building will not become the property of the City of Rolla.

President Parry welcomed everyone and entertained questions from the audience.

Discussion followed regarding the recent article in the Rolla Daily News concerning the possibility of losing 1000 jobs at Fort Leonard Wood and the impact this will have on the Rolla area. It was mentioned that approximately 400 military families live in the Rolla area. The Board entertained questions from the audience.

County Commissioner Gary Hicks made the statement that the County has once again applied for a half-million dollar grant to complete the 63 and Highway V intersection. Commissioner Hicks stated that if the grant is approved this would stop the industrial traffic flowing through the residential area; which would be a huge plus for the community. Commissioner Hicks will update the Board if the grant is approved.

President Perry asked for any further business. With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.

Ben Tipton, Secretary/Treasurer

Prepared by Millie Street