

## **RREC Advisory Board Meeting**

**Note: Meeting held at City Hall, 901 North Elm, Rolla, MO  
February 16, 2018 8:00 a.m.**

**Attending voting members:** Ben Tipton, Bill Jenks, Wayne Parry, Lou Magdits, Elizabeth Smith, Randy Verkamp, Tony Floyd, and Harold Selby.

**Absent voting members:** Ed Clayton, Robert Tessaro, Jeff Meadows, Mike Woessner, and Stevie Kearsse.

**Others in Attendance:** Executive Director Cyndra Lorey

**Guests:** Karen Buschmann, VP of Communications and Strategic Initiatives, Missouri Chamber of Commerce,

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Ben Tipton at 8:02 a.m.

Mr. Tipton recognized in the audience Hannah Cleeton, U.S. Senator Blunt's office, Justin Klocke, U.S. Senator McCaskill's office, and Mayor Jim White from St. James, Missouri.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Board received a hard copy of the previous minutes. After review, a motion was made by Parry, seconded by Verkamp to approve the minutes of the January 2018 meeting. A voice vote on the motion showed all Ayes. Nays: None. Absent: Clayton, Tessaro, Meadows, Woessner and Kearsse. Motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF BUDGET:**

All Board Members received a hard copy of the RREC 2018 budget. President Tipton reviewed the 2018 budget with the Board Members. Exec. Director Lorey informed the Board of \$26,000 received for the Transportation Development District (TDD) – a reimbursement for the original study of the 05/06 Rolla West Master Plan. Exec. Director Lorey stated that this amount will be reflected on an amended budget she plans to bring to the board in March. President Tipton entertained questions from the Board. After all questions were satisfied, a motion was made by Verkamp and seconded by Floyd to approve the 10-31-17 financials. A voice vote on the motion showed all Ayes. Nays: None. Absent: Clayton, Tessaro, Meadows, Woessner and Kearsse. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Exec. Director Lorey updated the Board on the Prock Operations project from the City of St. James. The Missouri Department of Economic Development, the City of St. James, the St. James Industrial Development Authority, and the Rolla Regional Economic Commission worked together to assure the expansion of the Prock Operations and to make it possible for Prock Operations to stay and grow in St. James. There are currently 64 employs with Prock Operations and the expansion will allow an additional 40 jobs over the next three years.

Exec. Director Lorey updated the Board on the following projects: 1) Submission of the former Fed Ex building for a MoPar warehouse/distribution center project seeking a 20,000 sq. ft. building expandable to 60,000 sq. ft. 2) Submission of a site at Rolla Industrial Park for a second MoPar project for a German manufacturer of sweet baked goods – the site must be publicly owned and a rail service is very important to the project. 3) Project Sun is still active and RREC will have an update at the next meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Exec. Director Lorey shared with the Board the draft questionnaire for the Phelps County business owners and entertained questions from the Board.

Exec. Director Lorey also discussed the under-employed survey for Phelps County but mentioned that Board Member Lou Magdits suggested the study be tabled until a later date – due to the upcoming hiring for the Rolla West Project. Exec. Director Lorey stated this study will be tabled until at least the 2019 budget.

Exec. Director Lorey reported that she is arranging for a presentation/meeting with the owners of the Neal Group Contracting Company of Joplin. They are developers experienced in the rehabilitation of older buildings utilizing the many available state and federal programs. The owners, Jeff and Carolina Neal, are willing to share their expertise and provide some guidance in applying their experience to the St. James/Rolla area. The meeting will be held in April and St. James and Rolla leaders are invited.

### **PRESENTATION:**

President Tipton introduced Karen Buschmann, VP of Communications and Strategic Initiatives with the Missouri Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Buschmann provided a power point presentation regarding the state's transportation infrastructure situation and proposed paths to address the funding needs. The transportation issue is one of the planks of the Chamber's Missouri 2030 strategic plan. She stated Missouri 2030 is a strategic economic plan for Missouri with a goal to position Missouri as a global economic leader. After the presentation, Ms. Buschmann entertained questions from the Board and Audience.

After the presentation President Tipton opened the floor for questions and each were satisfied.

Next scheduled meeting: March 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. City Hall Council Chambers.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jenks, seconded by Selby. A voice vote on the motion showed all Ayes. Nays: None. Absent: Clayton, Tessaro, Meadows, Woessner and Kearse. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Ben Tipton, President

Prepared by Millie Street, City Administration