Minutes

Community Revitalization Team

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

5:30 PM- 7:00 PM

Hybrid 484 N. Broadway, Burns OR

And Zoom

**Attendees: In person Zoom**

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| Pete Runnels-Harney County Judge | Angela Lamborn-Harney Hub (Sr. Center) |
| Kirby Letham-City of Hines | Fred Flippence-Harney Electric Cooperative |
| Brenda Smith – High Desert Partnership | Logan Hunt-Burns Paiute Tribe |
| Andrea Letham- Harney County SBDC | Margie Andersen-Senator Bentz Office |
| Judy Erwin-City of Burns | Patty Dorroh-Harney County Commissioner |
| Rick Paul-Community Member | Feather Sams-Huesties-Business Oregon |
| Dan Brown-City of Burns | Larry Holzgang-Business Oregon |
| Leslie Richman-Community Member | Dan Porter-Plectrum Music |
| Scott Campbell-Silvies Resort and Ranch | Misti Porter- Plectrum and Desert Moon Atelier |
| Barbara Cannady-Fair Value Auctions | Greg Smith-HC Economic Development |
| Deanna Thrall-HC Chamber of Commerce | Will Keady-HC Economic Development |
| Steve Quick-HC School District #3 |  |
| Becky Cunningham-Rimrock Recycling |  |
| Denise Rose-HC Economic Development |  |

**1. Introductions:** Greg Smith asked Judge Pete Runnels to run the meeting and Judge opened the meeting and welcomed everyone by Zoom and in person.

**2.** **Old Business:** the minutes were provided on the website.By general agreement, the minutes stood as provided.

**3. New business:**

1. **Regular Reports-**.

**County Court, Judge Pete Runnels-** County Court had a presentation from the County Juvenile Department, their case load is up. The Emergency Manager reported on radio tower communication, they will be using state and federal grant funds to do update work. First reading on TLT tax, hoping to have the two parts completed for the next ballot. Funds go to fairgrounds, search and rescue and economic development.

**City of Hines, Kirby Letham-** a lot of activities in January, water project is almost complete pending weather break. Excited to the get the new meter reading system in place which will allow about 97% of meters to be read virtually and posted directly into billing software. The city will go back to measured water usage, which will be read in gallons. Base rate will be for 20,000 gallons over a two-month period.

**Burns Paiute Tribe, Logan Hunt –**Yapa street development is completed, including 8 lots developed with 4 homes. They are still discussing how those will be used. Tracy Kennedy is on the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association board and they are planning a publication with information to highlight the area. Still recruiting for a General Manager and a Housing Director.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Lost connection to main room meeting \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**City of Burns, Dan Brown -**also working on water project, applied for CBDG grant. Adopted the water master plan. They are working on street projects, with various funding. Airport master plan in the works still. They will put out an RFQ for engineering services which is required by FAA every five years. Recruiting for police chief. Undergoing a System Development fee study now. Urban Renewal Agency is having second board meeting next week. This is getting a lot of attention and questions about what the specifics will be. Joint grant with John Day and Lakeview for broadband through the area under the R3 Network.

**Harney County Economic Development, Greg Smith-** Closed on a loan with the Senior Center, Angela Lamborn and the Harney Hub for the Veterans Housing project. Thanks to Harney Electric Cooperative for their role in helping obtain this funding. Getting ready to close on the First Home loan in late February to build the home in Hines. Capital construction projects have been submitted to the legislature for consideration including:

* Fairgrounds Cultural Center $1.36 million
* Kids Club, Genos Gym $1.34 million
* City of Burns airport hangar $1.54 million
* City of Burns Type I fire urban interface pumper $500,000

**Housing Committee-Denise Rose** Plans are available to view on the wall of the community room**.** Timeline update from the contractor,about a 3-month construction process. Kaya Dobson will be working with Kaino Construction doing design and construction. Will Keady is working to document the home building process. The Housing Committee also offered support and assistance to both cities as they develop housing efforts. Kirby asked about the tax assistance legislation. Greg detailed the process of a 3-year property tax exemption for home construction which will be optional for cities and counties with a population of less than 15,000. Will keep us posted on the rulemaking process.

**Small Business Support Committee, Misty and Dan Porter-** taking a hiatus as participation from businesses has been poor. Greg and Judge offered support

**Workforce Availability and Skills Committee, Brenda Smith –** no report

**Infrastructure Committee, Pete Runnels-**no report

**Harney Hub (Senior Center), Angela Lamborn**- working on site plans and appreciate the front-end money. The other funding through a grant will close, hopefully by June. Engineering activity ramping up. They will have five clusters of 4 units, for about 20 units total, of slightly over 600 sq. ft. Working to connect the development to the biomass system for heat. Fred thanked Greg for his work in pulling together financing from Umatilla Electric Cooperative for this project. And he thanked thank UEC for stepping outside the norm and reaching out to a neighboring cooperative region.

**SBDC, Andrea Letham-**she isworking on a lot of year-end tax assistance to businesses. Survey brought some good ideas for how the TA grant can be used to better serve this community. The first Co Starters Traction event will be held February 15th. They continue to work with The Foundry to bring expertise to businesses. Co Starter intro course will be the next day, on the 16th.

**Harney County School District #3, Steve Quick**-shout out to the teachers in the district who have been able to pivot between the in person and online format as needed. Thanks also to parents who have given a lot of grace as the schools work through this process. Working with Cardno to market the Lincoln building. Working as a board and employees to update their strategic plan in anticipation of gaining some matching grant funding from state. A new program, AVID is being implemented for teaching and learning strategies, and goal setting. The program was funded through a grant. Lots of projects in progress, some good excitement going on.

**Chamber of Commerce, Deanna Thrall-**reported she is happy the Chamber dinner is over!

**Silvies Valley Ranch, Scott Campbell**- reported the hardest year of his life last year but the numbers were up about 70% over the previous year. 2418 unique guests, who stayed an average of 2.6 nights. Guests typically spend about $800 a day. Payroll is about $1.5 million and $500,000 in goods and service were purchased from local communities. Summer hiring will start soon and pay will start at $20/hour with a generous bonus package. They have laid out lots for vacation home construction, which are starting to sell. The courses are continuing to win design awards and they have two new courses opening in May. A question was asked about the number of planes that fly into the airport and Scott estimated they had about 12 a week last year. Greg asked how the cabin lots will be marketed, and Scott replied that they will mostly introduce them to people who come to the ranch, but also on their website.

**Misti Porter-**started to report on the arts survey taking place in May but lost her internet connection so will email the information to the group.

1. **Focus Work:**

**Harney County Economic Development District Plan Review:**

Action Matrix was provided to the group ahead of time. Both city administrators and the County Judge have reviewed already and added edits, input. Susan Christensen added input on funding opportunities. Business Oregon representatives also will provide ideas for specific funding matches.

* General conversation about what the document will be used for and how far along are we in the process. Judge asked for input on what seems reasonable and what may not fit our community. He commented that nothing is official or approved yet, but we are seeking input from this group as the first public distribution.
* Dan asked about the Tator Tot Trail in Ontario and noted that the sidewalk and trail efforts might benefit from the same funding options. Greg suggested looking to State Parks for resources. He suggested working with Rep Owens and Sen. Findley to prioritize desired projects.
* Susan suggested an opportunity she found under Realtor Party for placemaking and funding that could come from the planning provided by this document. She also informed the group about the use of CEDS for federal funding.
* Greg suggested prioritizing the list and narrowing down the list to achievable items. Everyone takes this home, review and come back to do some prioritizing work.
* Kirby suggested coming to the city councils with a pared down version of the priorities.
* Dan mentioned the newly adopted Strategic Plan in the City of Burns has a lot of cross over and commented on the timing and getting all three entities together to narrow scope and look at funding.
* Brenda suggested each entity specifies what is already in process and potentially funded or partially funded to help lift that effort up. Then funding requests could be the “last mile” or project completion.
* Logan offered to take another look at the Matrix with tribal leadership to see what additional items the Tribe may be able to help with.
* This document could be shared with other groups CRT members are involved in.

Fred Flippence mentioned that the hybrid meeting method worked really well this time and he appreciated being able to hear everything so well.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:53 PM