



Harney County Economic Development

Minutes
Community Revitalization Team
Wednesday, May 5, 2021
5:30 PM- 7:00 PM
Via Zoom

Attendees:

Pete Runnels-Harney County Judge	Mark Owens-District 60 Representative
Fred Flippence-Harney Electric Cooperative	Patty Dorroh-Harney County Court
Dan Porter- Plectrum Music Company	Ray La France-Worksource Oregon
Misti Porter-Plectrum Music Company	Brenda Smith – High Desert Partnership
Allison Field – Business Oregon	Dan Brown-City of Burns
Didgette McCracken-OSU Extension, Grant County	Alivia Robbins-HC Economic Development
Bree Cublilovic-GEODC	Denise Rose-HC Economic Development
Logan Hunt-Burns Paiute Tribe	Greg Smith-HC Economic Development
Alysa Piszka-Bridge Economic Development	

1. Introductions Greg Smith opened the meeting and welcomed everyone by Zoom.

2. Old Business the minutes were provided on the website. Fred moved to accept the April minutes without changes. Patty seconded and the motion was carried.

3. New business

A. Regular Reports

Special Report, Rep. Mark Owens - received an email from SBDC regarding concerns about the Commercial Rent Relief program not a good fit for Eastern Oregon businesses. A group worked with Business Oregon, to provide input for the next round. The virtual world has been frustrating and tough to build relationships. There are about 1000 bills left, and they are actively trying to figure out water situations. His heart goes out to students learning to work virtually, as that cannot possibly be ideal. He greatly appreciates the support and looks forward to continuing working for Harney County.

City of Burns, Dan Brown - has been working on the CO2 Program and there is close to \$1,000,000 in grant funding. He sat in on the interview process for the Chamber Director and looks forward to having someone in that position soon. Lastly, engineers have started working on the One Stop Project.

County Court, Judge Pete Runnels - The court today passed a Drought Resolution and pushed it on to Emergency Management to hopefully get it into effect as soon as possible. Budgets have been moving along smoothly. There are different funds coming through and he is working to identify how we can best help the community. He has put in requests for funding and grants.

Burns Paiute Tribe, Logan Hunt - It has been a pretty busy month and houses are expected soon, to be placed on the prepared pads. The Youth Entrepreneurship Program is starting next week. The contractors are working at the RV Park and are making progress. He also mentioned communication

with the Cycle Oregon organization and the potential for working with them to bring tourist traffic to the area.

Harney County Economic Development, Greg Smith - Alivia Robbins introduced herself. She is working as an intern through August, between Harney County Economic Development and High Desert Partnership. Denise shared that she has been working with Alisa on the Economic Development plan. Greg added that Carndo's work is high quality and just outstanding. He is still working with other developers who are in the project planning stages. He is also taking a portion of dollars and setting them aside for an Eastern Oregon Housing Fund, which will be available to Harney County. We are hopeful housing solutions will be coming soon. There are businesses in expansion mode, and the office will continue to help them progress.

Small Business Committee, Misti and Dan Porter - The group met with the city last week to set up Beers & Brats on August 14th and Arts in The Park on August 7th at Arrowhead Park. Everything is coming together well, and Mike Ribeiro and OYA students, have offered to build the benches for downtown.

Workforce Availability and Skills, Brenda Smith - She has been able to keep progressing with interns since starting the Internship Program in November. There are three different teachers from each of the county schools that are working on the Internship Program. Crane had a field day last week and High Desert Partnership was able to gather a group of educators as they created a career connecting opportunity. They have been really pushing for elevating awareness for getting kids back out there.

Infrastructure Committee- Pete Runnels -A Broadband committee is currently being created and the county is willing to be a potential pass through for funding. Residential rent relief is going through the Housing Authority. He has reached out to rental property owners around town, and most say they are not hurting, Harney County has proven resilient through the pandemic.

B. Focus Work

Allison Field and Didgette McCracken gave a presentation on the Cyber Mill concept in Grant County, as well as the 4 main functioning pieces of it which include The Cyber Mill, Education, Small Business Recovery and COVID Impact. They have worked to create technology opportunities for those without access during this virtual based era, including students who are doing distance education. They shared their timeline with us, hoping to complete Phase 3 of their proposed Regional Facility by 2025.

Alisa Pyszka from Bridge Economic Development gave an overview of her work since the April Stakeholders meetings. She noted several points from her conversations with local community members. Community leaders are at the table and working together to plan with purpose. She also complemented the efficiency of key players in the community. "Everyone performs their role and stays on track" which is an efficient use of time and resources. She is impressed with the evidence of everyone pulling together for intentional growth. Her advice was to take care of our own first, i.e., make sure services and business growth support residents, which will resonate when we work to attract both businesses and tourists. The report is almost complete, in draft form for the county to review, and the document should translate into development ideas for the Brownfield sites.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm