Minutes

Community Revitalization Team

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

5:30 PM- 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

**Attendees: In person Zoom**

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| Pete Runnels-Harney County Judge | Brenda Smith – High Desert Partnership |
| Kirby Letham-City of Hines | Heather Smith-The Historic Central Hotel |
| Logan Hunt-Burns Paiute Tribe | Tucker Billman-Oregon Trail Electric Coop. |
| Irene Gonzalez- Small Business Administration | Curt Blackburn-Blackburn Real Estate |
| Judy Erwin-City of Burns | Colby Marshall-Blackburn Real Estate |
| Misti Porter-Plectrum and Desert Moon Atelier | Andrea Letham- Harney County SBDC |
| Dan Porter-Plectrum Music | Larry Holzgang-Business Oregon |
| Fred Flippence-Harney Electric Cooperative | Terri Hellbusch-Community Member |
| Jen Keady-Family Eyecare | Greg Smith-HC Economic Development |
| Forrest Keady-The Historic Central Hotel | Denise Rose-HC Economic Development |
| Jeff Rose-Burns Bureau of Land Management | Will Keady-HC Economic Development |
| Steve Quick-HC School District #3 |  |

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

**2.** **Old Business:** the minutes were provided on the website.Tucker moved and Pete seconded to accept the November/December meeting minutes without changes.

**3. New business:**

1. **Regular Reports-** the group exchanged New Year’s greetings to all attending.

**County Court, Judge Pete Runnels-** A new Harney County Fair Director has been hired, Lindsey Robertson. New Fair Board members are Bill Wilber and Toni Foster. The county court has voted 2-1 to rescind the SASO amendment. They are looking at potential property for a new justice and public safety center, with the Lincoln property under consideration. The plan could include offices and court rooms in the historic building with jail facilities built on the adjacent property. Architectural plans are in the works and the county is looking for funding now. Remodel cost is estimated at $200-300 per sq ft and new build $300-400 per sq ft.

**City of Hines, Kirby Letham-** ARP funds have been set aside for the Wastewater Master Plan, first task will be to work on the pump station that dates back to the 1950’s. Bathroom project for the Hines City Park is in the planning stages for completion in the last spring, early summer. Final pieces of the water project should be completed by mid-spring.

**Burns Paiute Tribe, Logan Hunt –**The tribe is busy thawing out! Tracy is working on the CEDS, and they are mapping out their funding. Engineers are evaluating the feasibility of solar panels for the armory building roof.

**City of Burns, City Councilor Jen Keady-**Urban Rural Agency has passed, implementation will be coming. Washington Park restroom is ready to be installed, pending weather. Special City Council meeting tomorrow for discussion of the Chief of Police vacancy. Code Compliance Officer is doing a fantastic job and people have been thanking the city for the reminders. She welcomed Dan Porter as a new City Council member. **Judy Erwin**- discussed the first Tri-City Consortium planning meeting also held with John Day and Lakeview. Will call the group R3 Strategies.

**Harney County Economic Development, Greg Smith-** typical slowdown in December, but January is starting off with a lot of activity. We are working with Angela Lamborn at the Sr. & Community Center for a loan to start the Veterans Housing project. Cardno group has been working with the School District to develop a disposition plan for the Lincoln property. They have also provided an Action Matrix for community wide economic development activity. On January 11, there will be an online class for beginners on how to approach financing with a bank. Also, the Oregon Housing Summit is January 13th.

**Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, Tucker Billman-**discussed a project to track economic and community development projects in their territory. He is pulling together a data base and interactive map for their board as well as public use. Asked for input from the group.

**Housing Committee-Kirby Letham** reported that a pandemic related shut down of the concrete plant last fall prevented the foundation pour for the First Home. Start will depend on the weather hopefully the late winter, early spring. Greg talked about an effort at the Port of Portland to use unused warehouse space for the construction of kit homes. We should keep an eye in this for our area. Colby Marshall responded to Jen Keady’s question about Miller Springs project. He talked about the key location and price point we have in our area and how this is appealing to investors in housing who bring money from other areas.

**Small Business Support Committee, Misty and Dan Porter** asked about restrooms in Hines Park for the Fourth of July BBQ event they are planning. First meeting of the year January 11. Beer and Brats Music festival is growing with a lot of acts committing to attend. They are also planning an October Fest in Hines in the fall. All events to get the community and businesses together.

**SBDC, Andrea Letham-** meeting with business owners, and several who are looking to expand and/or purchase businesses. Lots of year end work on financials as well as planning for the next year.

**Workforce Availability and Skills Committee, Brenda Smith –** reported on the broad cross section of internships available for spring semester, with 21 high school students signed up. While she acknowledged that internships are just a part of the workforce development effort, it has been a fast-growing example, along with the entrepreneur program, of getting kids engaged in the workforce. Fred Flippence shared the story of his high school intern who later graduated from lineman school and joined the Harney Electric Coop. team.

**Infrastructure Committee, Pete Runnels-**Recent meeting withCity Managers to discuss infrastructure funding for street, water, sewer and sidewalks would move housing and business construction forward. Broadband, more options coming as MiWave installs fiber through northern Burns. Also, we are all aware of the presence of Spectrum offering internet services, so we have options. Greg offered that BEO has requested funds from Business Oregon for regional support for small ag businesses with gross revenue under $500,000. CRT may be asked to support a local lender to implement this process, if awarded.

1. **Focus Work:**

**Presentation of the Community Branding Survey results**

Andrea Letham with Biz Harney presented the results of the survey conducted last December. Some useful information from business owners as well as community members at large. General information included a preference for multiple methods of communicating information, with email and social media at the top of the list but majority asked for more than one method. Respondents familiar with community identity and branding were about half and half. Interestingly, only one business owner respondent said internet sales negatively impacted their business. Going forward, the city and county leadership will be given updates, and the business respondents will receive a copy of the report. This will help guide the branding and education process for 2022.

Her presentation is available on request. More information will be coming for the business community.

**Goal Setting and Planning for 2022**

Judge Runnels led a discussion regarding the format and direction of CRT meetings and the subcommittee work. He asked for input from all members and if we need to take a different direction. Agreement was that the regular monthly meetings should continue to be scheduled, and the length of meeting was fine. We can be flexible as far as taking December and at least one summer month off. Kirby agreed but wondered if we could shift up the format some. Greg mentioned that he is very conscious of allowing everyone to have a chance to contribute. Judge suggested an open comment period added to the end of the meeting. Jen Keady talked about the new format at the Burns City Council where each department manager takes turns and presents a more robust report, instead of all reporting at every meeting. Judge offered to work with Denise to come up with a “surprise” agenda for the February meeting to mix it up some.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 PM