

Minutes
City of Brookings
Economic Development Committee (EDC)
Council Chambers 898 Elk Drive August 12, 2004 7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Chair John Zia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Members present: Jeremy McVeety, Don Mitchell, Rick Bishop, Shelly Eaton, Frances Johns Kern, Peggy Goergen, Dorothy Garvin, Dave Gordon, John Zia, and Toni Mefford.

Members absent: David Freeman, Chris Nichols, Elizabeth Smith.

Staff present: Economic and Urban Development Director Ed Wait, Assistant Planner Dianne Snow and Administrative Secretary Linda Barker.

Others: Kathy Morgan and Gloria Sevey, Oregon Department of Employment

III. Review and approval of previous meeting's minutes

1. *Minutes of July 8, 2004*

Frances Johns Kern moved, a second followed and by voice vote the committee approved the minutes of July 8, 2004, as corrected.

IV. Addition of items to agenda if needed

None

VI. Scheduled Appearances

1. *Oregon State Department of Employment*

Kathy Morgan and Gloria Sevey spoke on services the Oregon Department of Employment (DOE) offers to businesses, communities and individuals. There have been significant changes in the last few months in Coos and Curry counties. Unemployment insurance for the area is now administered from a call center in Eugene. ODOE's focus is on providing an applicant pool for businesses. A new program named IMatch will start this fall that matches job applicants and employers based on skills. Businesses in Oregon fund DOE services which are then provided to businesses at no cost. Governor Kulongoski has designated funds for workforce training. There is \$85,000 in training funds and \$56,000 in capacity funds currently available with a new round of applications being funded next week. The presenters also answered questions from the committee.

VI. Unscheduled Public Appearances
None

VII. Staff Reports/Updates/Information

Snow said there is a continuation of the Planning Commission public hearing on the Borax Masterplan, Tuesday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m. The City Council will hear the application on September 13. She said a new group, Brookings-Harbor Friends of Trees is being formed and she will speak to the group in October.

Wait said the Saturday market which has been held for the last three weeks is working well with lots of vendors and no negative feedback from businesses in the area. The city and Coos Curry Electric Co-op will be discussing placing permanent electrical service in the area. He reported on the presentation given at the last City Council on a proposed design for a new city hall on the same site as the current city hall. He said street projects on Chetco Avenue will be ongoing in preparation of ODOT's planned reconstruction and paving of Highway 101 next year. He concluded with a reminder for everyone to sign up to participate in the Slam'n Salmon Fishing Derby which will be held September 3 through 6 at the Port of Brookings Harbor.

VIII. Sub-committee Reports

1. Downtown Subcommittee

After Old Business below, Subcommittee Chair Toni Mefford reported the subcommittee held three meetings since the EDC last met. Committee members have been working very hard drafting a new section to the Land Development Code, the Downtown Business District, Section 54. A marathon meeting will be held September 1 to finish the code and another meeting August 8 to prepare it for EDC review on the 9th. The draft will be sent to the EDC members about a week before their meeting on the 9th.

IX. Old Business

Before the subcommittee report above, Chair Zia asked if members absent at the last meeting wanted to state their most pressing economic concern for the area. Eaton said, from the County level, affordable housing throughout Curry County is a top concern. Garvin added that is a great concern and also additional assisted living facilities for the elderly needs attention. Zia asked if anyone would like to revise what they had listed in the prior meeting. Discussion ensued among committee members.

Mitchell gave an update on his efforts regarding a composting facility. He attended a Curry County Recycling Committee meeting and County Commissioner LaBonte has asked DEQ for a feasibility study for county-wide composting.

Regulations on resource industries such as fishing and logging were discussed.

X. New Business
None

XI. General Discussion/Committee Comments
Handled under Old Business

XII. Work Items for next or future meetings

Proposed Section 54 of the Land Development Code will be the focus of the next meeting, September 9. The proposed section will then go to the Planning Commission on October 5 and the City Council on October 25.

At the October EDC meeting there will be three presentations: Brookings Parks and Recreation Commission, SWOCC, and the Del Norte Economic Development Corporation.

XIII. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be September 9, 2004.

XIII. Summary of action items

During closing remarks Gordon said it was announced at the Chamber Forum this noon that Brookings is listed as No. 8 of top coastal places in the nation to retire. The *Where to Retire* Magazine will run the article in September.


McVeety said SCORE is dissolving their chapter in Brookings.

Zia said he sensed among the members a need to make a mark and recapped that if we can't attack and accomplish all the economic concerns the committee has, we can draw attention to them. He asked the committee to start thinking on ways to attract businesses to the area, to think of seniors as an asset base, and not to forget about the existing resource base.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Zia
Chair