

Board of Directors Present: Ben Hershey, Paul Geray, Roxanne Phipps, Rick Halvorson, Greg Krieger, Larry Young and Scott Hovde. Also present: Melissa Beach – Executive Director and Harry Lipsiea – Traill County Tribune.

A 6:30 p.m. tour of Norsemen Hall with member, Ben Basol, preceded the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Hershey.

Secretary's Report

Geray moved to accept the Feb. 15, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Halvorson. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Hovde moved to approve direct deposit payroll as post deposit, seconded by Young. Motion carried. Halvorson moved to accept the Mar. 15, 2018 treasurer's report, seconded by Hovde. Motion carried. Phipps moved to approve payment of checks as submitted, seconded by Hovde. Motion carried.

Beach reviewed the tax deposits received so far in 2018.

Executive Director's Report

Beach presented the monthly executive director's report, giving an overview of her work with existing clients and noting upcoming strategic plan deadlines. Beach said she's continuing to work with a housing developer interested in building multi-family units in Hillsboro. Other conversations surrounding housing activity in other communities is continuing as well. Beach explained the market is beginning to pick up, which means more activity on our website.

A Lead Local training was held in Hillsboro in cooperation with NDSU Extension. 19 participants attended, and 2 have since filed for election. Beach though the training was well received, and hoped to bring another to Traill County in the near future.

Much work is being done on grant writing out of our office. Beach explained that several clients are seeking grants, and A. Short has done a lot of work to detail deadlines and coordinate efforts to apply.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Housing Update

Beach reviewed the proposed location and obstacles being encountered for the multi-family housing development in Hillsboro. She said there opposition has been expressed from the Hillsboro Development Association (Kiwanis Housing), along with neighboring property owners Glenn and Nancy Brustad. Beach is working with all parties to attempt to appease everyone, but is continuing to encounter delays from Hillsboro Development Association. The conversation began with that organization in June of 2017.

Krieger moved to send a resolution of support to Hillsboro Development Association in favor of the proposed multi-family housing development in order to provide housing for business development, retention and recruitment, which may be accompanied by a personal representative of Traill County EDC. Motion



seconded by Young. Motion carried.

Opportunity Zones Incentives Update

Beach explained the new Opportunity Zone application that was submitted on behalf of Trail County. Opportunity Zones are a new community development program established by Congress in the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 to encourage long-term investments in low-income and urban communities nationwide. The Zone in Trail County is the area north of Highway 200, excluding the cities of Mayville and Portland.

Brownfield Inventory Update

Beach explained the SBA grant application that is begin submitted by Lake Agassiz Regional Development on behalf of their associated counties. If awarded, the grant will assist with brownfield redevelopment. Beach stated that well over 100 properties in Trail County could be considered brownfield properties, but for these purposes, she was going to submit a few from each city to show the need for the program.

2017 Annual Report Preview

Beach provided copies of the in-progress 2017 annual report. Content was still being updated, including a business profile and a historical snapshot. Hershey thanked Beach for their work on the annual report. Beach explained the appointments will be scheduled to present the annual report to each city and partner organization in the county, and invited board members to attend.

Community Updates

- Halvorson - Recent criminal activity in Galesburg is unwanted.
- Krieger - Township annual meetings will be held next Tuesday.
- Phipps - School project is going to bid soon. Scott Phipps running for Hatton City Council.
- Young - Mayville will have a new mayor, and also several open council positions. Mayville State University men’s basketball team did well at national tournament.
- Hovde - There is a renovation project happening at the old Portland bean plant.
- Geray - All housing lots have been sold in Hillsboro’s Prairie View development. Terry Sando has filed for Hillsboro City Commission president, and Levi Reese has filed for a city commission position. Hillsboro Business Association is holding their annual pancake feed April 14th, and Hillsboro Days will add a bean bag tournament this year.
- Hovet - Beach read the emailed update from Hovet including an update on the presidential search for Mayville State University.
- Hershey - New housing on the market in Buxton and area farmers are ramping up for growing season.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Officer (printed name & office)	Signature	Date
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Recording Secretary (printed name)	Signature	Date
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