

Minutes of Meeting
Trail County Economic Development Commission
March 16, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.
TCEDC Conference Room, Hillsboro, N.D. and online via Zoom

Present: Board members: Vicky Grothmann, Jami Hovet, AJ Andresen, Cassie Braaten, Marshall Erickson, Dustin Olson, Mark Duncan, Dr. Brian Van Horn, Ben Hershey and David Knudsvig. Also present: Jim Murphy – TCEDC Executive Director, Alyssa Short – TCEDC Deputy Director, Jim Johnson – Traill County Tribune and Cole Short – Hillsboro Banner.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Jami Hovet.

Agenda additions

None

Secretary's report

Knudsvig moved to accept the Feb. 16, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Hershey. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report/approve checks

Short said this month's report included job fair expenses, which would be split with TUG. TCEDC received a reimbursement from Traill County Emergency Management for the PIO dues. Hatton Community Club's Flex PACE loan has come up for repayment; it's a new group that owns the facility and we've been in touch with them but it's a slower process to get the checks cut. Tax collections are tracking well. Erickson asked if Short could include YTD comparison reports starting next month. Erickson moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Van Horn. Motion carried.

Short said the month's checks were very standard. Andresen moved to approve checks, seconded by Knudsvig. Motion carried.

Executive Director's report

Murphy said he and Short have spent a boatload of time and energy organizing the career expo/job fair. They had a great meeting and tour with a Hatton business, which is planning an expansion and adding positions to get lines running at capacity. They talked with a Hillsboro business about the ongoing remodel of that business in the former Sport Bar. The business owner is hoping to take on a partner and be in the new facility by June or July.

The office has been doing research on data centers. Murphy said the NDLA study will help identify more potential opportunities. There's not a lot of job creation with data centers but there is tax revenue. He also spoke with a Hillsboro landowner about the sale and potential use of some land close to the city.



TCEDC finalized the APUC grant with Agassiz Sustainables, for which Trall United Group was the paid fiscal agent. They spoke with Lewis and Clark Development, which owns the former Hatton Community Club housing, and the group is fully aware of the Flex PACE obligation to this office.

TCEDC is being asked to help support or oppose several pieces of legislation each week, whether providing written testimony or speaking during the floor session. The media coverage on the “Crafting Your Community” event was fantastic. There are some interesting projects being discussed, especially rec projects, particularly in Mayville in Hatton.

The office has been providing a lot of support to the county with its website. Short explained the process and that they’d be helping the county put this out for bids to potentially get this in the 2024 budget. Hershey said it would be good to hear the county commissioners’ position on TCEDC’s helping with the county’s website.

Crafting Your Community recap

Murphy said this was a great presentation, which included students from Hillsboro, Hatton and MayPort-CG. Short presented some of the anonymous survey results, which aided in finding additional relevant exhibitors for the upcoming career expo. Braaten said she loved everything Bertagnolli said and it really hit home with her community. She wishes more community members had been in attendance because they would have gotten a lot out of it.

Job Fair/Career Expo upcoming (March 22)

Anyone and everyone who wants to help should show up around 8 a.m. to help set up tables. There are 28 exhibitors signed up and students from at least seven schools attending, which is a bump in attendance from last year. We’re doing the passport thing again this year along with golden tickets for better door prizes. Van Horn saw the table tents and thought it would be a good opportunity for businesses to showcase summer work options, as well.

TUG board assignments/volunteers

Murphy gave an overview of Trall United Group and how it adds flexibility to the office. We haven’t done that much with it and we’re not sure where it’s going to go. Two members of the TCEDC board must be on the TUG board according to the bylaws, and Nysveen and Phipps were the TCEDC members.

Board members should email Murphy if they’re interested in being on the board.

Business grant guidelines approval

The guidelines and application were sent to the marketing committee, which had no feedback. TCEDC is funded at \$20,000 for this and it's a budget line item. Erickson asked to include language about the funding limit so applicants are aware that not all projects will be funded, and also to reword the prioritization to give the marketing committee more flexibility. Hovet asked that board members encourage businesses to apply.

Knudsvig made a motion to approve the guidelines with Murphy and Short updating the language to fit the spirit of Erickson's recommendations, seconded by Erickson. Motion carried.

Public spaces grant approval

Murphy would like to allocate \$15,000 for this and Short will make similar changes to those grant guidelines.

Erickson made a motion to approve the funding and guidelines with the changes, seconded by Van Horn. Motion carried, with Hershey abstaining. Short will update the guidelines after the job fair and send them to the marketing committee, and the program will open April 1.

Community updates

- Erickson – Nothing much to report for Clifford. Trail County Housing has put up its Trail County properties for bid.
- Grothmann – The Hillsboro 1973 title team will be honored at the Class B tournament. Dave Sather is stepping down from the Hillsboro City Commission. The school art showcase is next week.
- Andresen – Valley United is starting a backpack program with Central Valley School. Knudsvig said this would be a weekly program.
- Duncan – Attended his first Hatton EDC meeting. The park board wants to fix up some of the facilities that haven't been used. Hatton EDC is very interested in getting something going with the lots that are available in town. The water from the water project hasn't started going to houses just yet. The water tower will come down this summer.
- Olson – One month until taxes are due.
- Van Horn – Spring break at Mayville State so it's a little quiet. Testified recently in front of the Senate Appropriations Committee for Old Main and the entire university budget. Old Main is still in the funding.
- Braaten – Too much snow in Mayville.
- Knudsvig – If you live in the city, stay in the city. A lot of rural roads are impassable. Townships meetings are on Tuesday.
- Hershey – Still have a few lots for sale in Buxton. Park Board meeting coming up in April. MayPort Youth Center hockey smoker is March 31. Murphy said Bobbi Hepper Olson could potentially help with grant funding for the Buxton fire station.

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Grothmann moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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