

Brooke County EDA Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2015 at 5:00pm
Barn with Inn Bed and Breakfast

Attendance: Honorable Stacey Wise, Honorable Tim Ennis, Patty Welling, Jon Rogers, John DeStefano, Pat Sutherland, Cynthia Hoffman, Karen McClain, Della Serevich, Warren Scott and Norm Schwertfeger

Chatman Neely and Harry Sanford (Inn Keepers) met the EDA members at 5:00pm and gave a tour of the new B&B The Barn with Inn located on Route 88 about ¼ mile from Rt. 27 (Washington Pike). The tour was fascinating and the facilities and grounds are impressive! The Inn Keepers also provided homemade sandwiches, drinks and homemade desserts! Thanks To Harry and Chatman for being gracious hosts!

~ Norm Schwertfeger opened the meeting at 5:40pm.

Minutes from previous meeting- Pat Sutherland made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, second by Jon Rogers and passed.

Financial Report- Patty Welling provided the Treasurers Report for April 22, 2015. The balance in the account reflects a total of \$22,821.47 as of April 22, 2015. Motion by John DeStefano and Second by Stacey Wise to approve Treasurers Report and passed.

New business Introduction/ Presentation: After the tour and excellent food, the Inn Keepers left us with flyers, open house material and business cards.

Registration for HUBapalooza Event: After a brief discussion on the Hubapalooza event, motion by Jon Rogers and second by Pat Sutherland to approve registration fees at \$25 per person attending the Hubapalooza event scheduled for April 30, 2015. The attendees will provide a report at a subsequent EDA meeting on the event.

Request from the Brooke Farmer Market: The EDA received a grant request for \$800.00 from the Brooke Farmer Market group for expenses associated with the Summer 2015 Market. John DeStefano made a motion to approve the \$800 request, second by Jon Rogers and discussion ensued. After the discussion, chairman called for a vote and the group voted unanimously to support the request.

Old Business:

A- Committee Reports

- 1- Land and Building Inventory Reports-** Norm Schwertfeger reported on the committee. The work with the WJU interns has slowed down and we hope to pick this activity back up with the award of a new AmeriCorp VISTA worker in the coming months. The intent is to have the VISTA work with the Brooke County Assessor Office to identify vacant buildings and property and catalog information to be placed on county EDA web site.

- 2- County Web Site Discussion-** Commissioner Wise reported that she will be reviewing the recent changes/additions to the web site with Mike Bolen and make recommendations for further additions as work with the EDA progresses.
- 3- Small Business Loan Programs-** Jon Rogers gave a report on the USDA loan/grant programs. Jon agreed to talk with the Wheeling representative and possibly invite to a meeting to discuss programs that the EDA may qualify.

Election of Officers: Deferred again.

Development Updates:

- A.** County Assessor Report- Tom Oughton was not present and no report given.
- B.** BDC Northern Panhandle- Pat Ford was not present. But sent a report and Commissioner Wise gave the report. 1.) BDC will complete the Beech Bottom home renovation by end of April. A ribbon cutting will be scheduled. 2.) BDC razed a mobile home trailer in Beech Bottom. 3.) BDC will ad another tenant from Colorado at Beech Bottom plant and they will be announced in May. That will make 5 tenants (Jupiter Aluminum, Sheehan, L&M Logistics, Profoam, and new Colorado Company). 4.) Waiting to hear about a clean-up grant for Beech Bottom plant. 5.) We have the Brooke Glass Pickers event scheduled for this Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 12-4pm. 6.) Waiting for word on clean-up grant for Brooke Glass in May. If not awarded, lining up gap financing to assist with demolition costs. 7) Two prospects are interested in Colliers Steel building. 8.) Closed on Barney's Bakery to move into 3 Springs Drive Business Park. 9.) Fiorentini is exercising option to close in Three Springs Business Park. 10.) Currently working with other businesses to locate at Three Springs Business Park. 11.) Working with Brooke Hills Park to study the feasibility of a lodge. Results scheduled for may along with a business plan.
- C.** BHJ Report- Mike Paprocki was not present and no report submitted.
- D.** County Commissioners- Commissioner's Stacey Wise and Commissioner Tim Ennis was present. Commissioners discussed potential demolition of buildings along riverside across from Courthouse. Commissioners also reported on the recent Volunteerism Award program and the opportunity to recognize stellar community volunteers in the county.
- E.** WVDO- Matt Borrer was not present and no report submitted.

AmeriCorp VISTA Grant Application- Norm reported on a grant for a full time VISTA worker that he was applying for. The grant is looking good and we should know soon if approved. The position will start May 18-21 with training in Atlanta, Georgia. Position will be able to work with EDA and Farmer Market among other community projects.

Follansbee Community Update- City Manager John DeStefano gave an in depth report on various projects in Follansbee including piping stored along Rt. 2 and along riverside by plant, potential Power Plant project, Middle school properties, Council planning project and more.

Bethany Town Update- Councilman Pat Sutherland indicated they are working with the BDC on a few projects. Town is also working on grants for further trail development, Summer Community Market and Town Event space.

Wellsburg Community Update- Councilwoman Della Serevich was in attendance and gave a report on Wellsburg. Della invited those in attendance to the Saturday event at Brooke Glass, discussed various building demolitions in the city, etc.

Grimes Golden Park Update- Norm reported on progress at Grimes Park. A number of large trees were marked for removal from the site to improve sunlight and safety at the site. Additionally, the group has been working with a nursery to plant additional apple trees at the site and additional beautification efforts.

Upcoming Training Opportunities- Norm shared a list of training opportunities that were available in the upcoming months:

- 1- **HUBapalooza-** 4/30/2015 from 10am – 3:30pm in Summersville, WV. ***Pat Sutherland and Norm Schwertfeger attended this event and will be able to share information.***
- 2- **Try This Conference-** 6/5,6/2015 at WV Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, WV. This is a conference promoting initiatives for a healthier community and mini grants are often awarded to teams willing to initiate a community health program.
- 3- **Community Leadership Academy-** 9/30-10/2/2015- Excellent Local government/leader conference held at Lakeview in Morgantown.
- 4- **Faces of Leadership-** 10/13-14/2015- Conference on service learning and local Mayor

Pat Sutherland motion to adjourn, Second by Jon Rogers and the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Norman Schwertfeger

Norm Schwertfeger, Secretary- BCEDA