

Brooke County EDA Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2016 at 5:30pm
Brooke County Library

Attendance: John Casinelli- Chairman, Ruby Greathouse, Pat Sutherland, Shari Beckstrand, Kyle Wales, David Klick, Sue Fleshour, Tonette Alward, Mary Fran Kowala, Susan Smurthwaite, Matt Borrer, Norm Schwertfeger

~ Norm Schwertfeger opened the meeting at 5:30pm.

Minutes from previous meeting- David Klick moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and second by Ed DiPino and passed.

Financial Report- Patty Welling submitted the treasurer's report for March 2016. Ed DiPino moved to approve, second by David Klick and passed.

Update on Entrepreneurial PITCH Project- Committee Chair David Klick advised those present that the committee met with Dr. Carrie White to discuss the proposed PITCH Contest for Brooke County. Carrie agreed to work with the committee and advised the group she had grant funding to help us with the project. David advised the members present that June .

Loan and Grant Project Update- Jon Rogers was not available tonight and no report given.

Oil & Gas Banquet Update- Commissioner Stacey Wise reported on the progress to date with the meeting. She met with officials from the gas company and they were receptive to having a reception to present information on the oil and gas progress with the authority and this could be held during one of our regular meeting dates.

Former Board of Education/ Incubator building update- Shari reported that she had a meeting with a family last month who may consider using space to display their products. She has a meeting this week with another lady to look at the space in consideration of her crafts and antiques. She encouraged everyone to get the word out about the available space.

AmeriCorp VISTA Update- Kyle Wales reported on the various projects he is working on. Kyle indicated that he and the county Assessor have completed 2 sites to be listed on the Brooke County website. He is also working on securing funds to put in a community garden in Wellsburg on property currently under the control of the City of Wellsburg. Kyle also reports on the First Annual Pancake meal to be held Saturday, March 19th from 9am-1pm at Brooke Hills Park with Agri Tours held at Hervey Farms and the new Sugar Shack. Kyle also reported on progress that has been made working with Bethany College on securing an intern to help record the interviews for use at the Brooke County Museum.

Barn With Inn to host Regional Tourism Meeting in April- Norm reported that the Regional Tourism group just met in Wetzel County at WVNCC in February and they have scheduled their

next meeting in April at the Barn With Inn on Route 88. Chatman Neely was down state meeting with the state B&B Association and he will try to get Tourism Director Amy Goodwin to attend the April Tourism meeting.

Museum & Rail Trail Update- Ruby Greathouse reported that she did not have anything new to report on the Museum, however, she was leaving the EDA meeting early to attend a rail trail meeting in Follansbee to discuss connecting the Wellsburg Trail to the Weirton Trail and try to identify a link through Follansbee, WV.

**Update from Municipalities, Town and Villages-
Beech Bottom-** No report given.

Bethany- The Honorable Mayor Pat Sutherland was present and discussed a number of projects that are going on in Bethany: (1-Bethany Town Council meets with new Bethany College President Dr. Tamara Rodenberg on March 2nd, at 5:30 p.m. (2-Our Bethany Planning Commission hopes to meet in late March and will invite BDC's Exec. Dir. pat Ford to speak with some Bethany residents who have concerns over the BDC-Bethany College housing project. (3-The Bethany generator project is now days away from completion, a 20 KW generator will enable our community center to serve as an emergency shelter for the town and this end of Brooke County. (4-Bethany College will be celebrating Founder's Day in March (176th Anniversary). (5-Kalon Scholar students from the college will be holding a spring celebration event at the Town Square on Main Street in Bethany-date to be announced. (6-The town hopes to have 3 area residents apply to attend the Try This Workshop in early June, details pending.

Wellsburg- No report given.

Follansbee- No report given.

Weirton- No report given.

**Development Updates-
County Assessor-** No report given.

Business Development Corporation- Pat Ford was present and reported on the recent announcement that Ball Corporation had just announced the closing of the plant in Weirton and the loss of 300 good paying jobs. He said Brooke and Hancock are very good locations to invest nationally with proximity to large population and major airport. He said that ball closed in Virginia and this was unexpected.

On a positive note there are 7 industries in Beech bottom Industrial Park and they are talking with industries from around the country that are looking here.

BHJ Regional Metropolitan Planning Council- No report given.

Brooke County Commission- Commissioner Tim Ennis reported that he is glad that the most frequent request he had received from residents had been completed with the lights being turned back on at the Market Street bridge. He also reported that the Commission learned the exact

location of where the bridge was slated to come onto route 2 and someone had a sign printed and marked the location for the benefit of county citizens interested. Commissioner Ennis would not divulge the name of the elected official that had that done but did look at Commissioner Stacey Wise during that entire conversation!

WV Development Office- No report given.

Norm Schwertfeger read off a list of upcoming conferences, workshops and more to the group and advised the group that he sent it out to the membership via email. The list is also attached to these minutes. Mayor Sutherland indicated that he thought Bethany had 3 people that would go to the Try This Conference and work together on the \$3,000 grant available to groups that attend! **Congratulations Bethany on being progressive and working as a team on Community Development!**

Sue Freshour, owner of Wilkins Flower Shop in Wellsburg. Sue advised the group she would welcome a brief tour of her shop at their new location at a future meeting. She also indicated that she is interested in learning about available grants to be used for historic restoration and rehabilitation.

Norm mentioned that Recreation is a very big community development event and asked if someone could give an update on the progress at Brooke Hills Park. Pat Ford gave a brief update on the exciting progress of new business ID signage, a new pool with recreational amenities and new cabins to be constructed at the park as part of a recently completed negotiations. David Klick was able to give a little more in depth report on the proposed project.

Pat Ford requested Brooke Glass Update be put on the agenda for next week.

Norm Schwertfeger adjourned the meeting at 6:30pm and WTOV-9 and Steubenville Herald Star conducted interviews after the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Norman Schwertfeger Norm Schwertfeger, Secretary- BCEDA