

**Brooke County EDA Meeting  
August 16, 2017 at 5:30pm  
Brooke Museum- Wellsburg, WV**

- I. **Attendance/ Introductions:** John Casinelli-Chair, George Kondik-Vice Chair, Patty Welling-Treasurer, Lynn Davis, Ruby Greathouse, Bud Billiard, Michael Traubert, Antoinette Perkins, Rachel Carey, Jacie Ridgely, Eric Fithyan, Commissioner Tim Ennis, George Smolder, Tim Pierce, Norm Schwertfeger
- II. Minutes of the meeting of May 31, 2017 were not presented and will be attached with these minutes.
- III. Patty Welling presented the financial reports for July and August and gave an up to date balance of \$21,699.04 in the account. Motion by Bud billiard to accept, second by Antoinette Perkins, passed unanimously.
- IV. PITCH Contest update- Jacie Ridgely reported they have 9 PITCH applications, Commissioner Jim Andrezzi agreed to cook his famous Italian sausage and meatballs again this year. They have secured \$4,000 for first place and either \$750 for second or \$500 for second and \$250 for third to be decided. The PITCH is scheduled for Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> Brooke Hills Park shelter across from pool at 6:00pm! Public invited and there is NO Charge!
- V. **USDA Loan and Grant Project Update:** No report.
- VI. **EDA Meetings discussion-** Norm discussed previous emails with responses to his suggestion to consider bi-monthly or quarterly meetings. The emails supported quarterly meetings and do the work in committees. Discussion ensued with a motion from Bud Billiard and second from Jacie Ridgely to move to quarterly meetings moved around the county and solicit requests from town, municipalities, parks, businesses, etc. to coordinate and propose sites, food, etc. for upcoming meetings. Chairman John Casinelli will coordinate the next meeting and it will be our Annual Hiloliday meeting in Nov/Dec. Date, time and location to be announced!
- VII. **Updates from Municipalities, Towns and Villages:**
  - A- **Beech Bottom-** No report.
  - B- **Bethany-** No report.
  - C- **Follansbee-** City Councilman John Casinelli reported on behalf of the city. City received a grant in excess of \$450,000.00 for a new fire/rescue/emergency vehicle. Development continues on North end of Follaqsbee. BDC bought old Follansbee Steel property and is working on development.
  - D- **Weirton-** George Kondik reported on progress through the Weirton Chamber of Commerce and announced the previous Business after hours at Brooke Hills Park and upcoming events at Iannetti's, Holiday Lanes, etc..
  - E- **Wellsburg-** No Report.
  - F- **Windsor Heights-** No Report.
- VIII. **Development Updates.**
  - A. County Assessor- No Report.
  - B. Business Development Corporation NP- No report.
  - C. BHJ Regional Metropolitan Planning- Mike called Norm with a bridge update that he has a meeting scheduled with Gus Swaid in future. Bridge still in design phase, survey crews are working and need to design the retaining wall for hillside. Steel arch bridge still planned.

- D. County Commission- Commissioner Ennis gave a county update and upon request shared update on the upcoming bond levy vote scheduled for October. The bond levy is for \$1.6 billion and will raise \$2.5 billion in road funds to include new projects, restoration and repair work.
- E. WV Development Office- No Report
- F. Brooke County Board of Education- Board Member Antoinette Perkins announced upcoming public hearings for Primary School consolidations. She indicated these are being planned as a direct result of financial strain and student enrollment decline.
- G. Brooke Senior Center-No Report.
- H. Banking Industry- No Report.
- I. Realty Industry- No Report.
- J. Brooke Hills Park- Bud Billiard was present to represent the Park. Army Corp of Engineers are currently at the park grading and filling an extended multiuse land area behind ball fields. Considerable projects going on at the park and encouraged people to come out and see them!

#### **Community & Economic Development Discussion-**

- A. John Casinelli gave an update on a Citizen satisfactory survey the city is undertaken with assistance from WVU-Extension. Survey document is under construction and will be disseminated to city residences and businesses with the city water bills.
- B. Round Table Event- Considerable discussion ensued lead by Michael Traubert, Bud Billiard, George Smolder and others. From this discussion Chairman Casinelli formed an initial committee on **Business Recruitment and Development** made up of George Smolder, Tim Pierce, Bud Billiard, Patty Welling, Rachel Carey, Michael Traubert and Chairman Casinelli. John Casinelli agreed to schedule the first committee meeting while the momentum and interest is high. PLEASE contact Norm or John Casinelli if interested in serving on the Business Recruitment and Development Committee!
- C. Rail Trail Update- Ruby Greathouse reported trail projects have been divided into numerous sections ranging from Wellsburg to Bruin Drive connector, Follansbee Trail, and connections to and through Weirton!
- D. Upcoming Regional Tourism meeting is scheduled for August 30<sup>th</sup> 11:00am at West Meeting Room in WesBanco Arena.
- E. Brooke County Fair is scheduled for September 8-10 at Brooke Hills Park.

**Next meeting will be the Annual Holiday Economic Development Meeting with date, time and location to be announced!**

Signed,

*Norman Schwertfeger*, Secretary BCEDA