

BROOKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MINUTES

2nd Quarter Meeting, May 15, 2018, 5:00 – 7:30 pm, Bethany College, Bethany, WV

1. **TOUR: Stone-Campbell Archives/Bethany Disciples of Christ Historical Society 5:00 pm**
Prior to the meeting, EDA members toured the Disciples of Christ Historical Society's Archives. This center is located near the historic Alexander Campbell mansion; domestic and international visitors have utilized the resources of the visitors' center and adjoining climate-controlled archives. The Reverend Rick Lowery, President, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, and archivist, Shelley Jacobs, toured EDA members and guests through the visitors' center which displays church records, books, journals, writings, and other historical artifacts

2. **DINNER: Benedum Commons, Bethany College Dining Hall, Bethany, WV 6:00 pm**

3. **MEETING: 30 people in attendance (reference page 4) 7:00 pm**
 - a. **WELCOME:** BCEDA President, John Casinelli, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm and introduced the Honorable Pat Sutherland, Mayor of Bethany.
 - b. **PROGRAM:** Dr. Sutherland, Mayor of Bethany and Director of Communications, introduced Dr. Tamara Rodenberg, the 20th President of Bethany College.
 - c. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** Dr. Rodenberg shared her vision of developing a high-tech, culturally diverse future for Bethany College and promote economic development through small business initiatives, tourism, and technology inclusion. She shared four key initiatives for the school:
 - To promote an environment of ethnic diversity by attracting more foreign students and providing faculty and other staff more opportunities to learn about other cultures through travels abroad.
 - To further incorporate science, technology, engineering and math into the school's liberal arts curriculum, preparing students for the growing job markets of the 21st century (STEM).
 - To encourage all staff, from faculty to service personnel, to further their professional development.
 - To expand the college's outreach to alumni and to surrounding businesses and communities to provide Bethany students with exciting internships, graduate studies, and employment opportunities.

Dr. Rodenberg introduced the college's Vice President of Operations, Mr. John Lipinski. The vision is to make Bethany not only a superior college of distinction, but also a destination place for people to visit on the weekends. Small business and land development are significant opportunities for the town and college. Several college-owned properties along Main Street are available for development. The Mountainside Conference Center has been closed; a private investor is being sought with the goal of repurposing the facility. The Point Breeze Mansion has been purchased and converted to a bed and breakfast after significant renovation.

Mr. Lipinski introduced Mr. Greg Caprara, director of development and special projects. Mr. Caprara advised that the college's trail system has been refurbished to attract visitors to the campus. Expansion in partnering could offer many advantages, e.g., Phipps Conservatory, renewable energy laboratory and greenhouse, a sustainability HUB venture, and other innovative, "best practices". College officials are interested in attracting companies that produce solar panels, fuel cells and related environmentally friendly products. Such strategies would appeal to Siemens, Westinghouse, etc. **Attachment 1 – news article on Bethany development activity.**

BROOKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- d. **BOARD & OFFICER REPORTS:** Mr. Casinelli thanked the speakers for sharing their recent accomplishments and future plans. He opened the business meeting.
- 1) **Attendance:** See attached list of attendees.
 - 2) **Minutes:** Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as written by Recorder Joan Beck, was offered by Norm Schwertfeger; this was seconded by David Klick. Motion approved unanimously.
 - 3) **Finances:** Larry Swanson provided a Treasurer's Report and the EDA has an account balance of **\$20,275.99**. Due to increased activity of the BCEDA, Larry mentioned that additional funding will be sought from the Brooke County Commission within the next 60-90 days. A motion to approve the report was made by Joan Beck and seconded by Bud Billiard. Motion approved unanimously.
 - 4) **Officer Status:** John Casinelli advised that George Kondik decided not to continue as an officer (Vice President) this year. Norman Schwertfeger and Larry Swanson nominated Dr. Heather Stone as Vice President; the nomination was approved by the group.
- e. **UPDATES** (includes Municipalities, Towns, Villages, Dev. Authorities, Commissions, Councils, etc.)
- 1) Beech Bottom – no report
 - 2) Bethany – P. Sutherland summarized recent activity including small business development and has contacted the Department of Highways for assistance with repaving of roads. **Attachment 2**
 - 3) Brooke Hills Park – Bud Billiard indicated that the Brooke County Park and Recreation Board is looking forward to everyone visiting the Park to see the growth and development in August. Results of the recent survey were shared with the Council and Chamber of Commerce.
 - 4) Weirton – no report
 - 5) City of Wellsburg & Wellsburg Chamber of Commerce - D. Klick advised the group that revitalization and visioning efforts continue. We are working cooperatively with several groups to address dilapidated buildings and be creative in the development of the city.
 - 6) Wellsburg Redevelopment Project - Matz Malone – no report
 - 7) Brooke County Commission – T. Ennis and S. Wise were in attendance and provided county development activities.
 - 8) Business Development Corporation – P. Ford – no report
 - 9) BHJ Metropolitan Planning Council – Secretary Beck reviewed highlights from the report received from Mike Paprocki. **Attachment 3.**
 - 10) WV Development Office – M. Borrer - no report
 - 11) Board of Education – no report
 - 12) Realty Industry- E. DiPino, M. Kowalo, L. Swanson – Mr. Swanson advised that a listing of available properties in Wellsburg has been compiled. Mr. Casinelli advised that a similar list is being updated for Follansbee.
 - 13) Other Reports - none
- f. **GENERAL DISCUSSION: OLD & NEW BUSINESS:**
- 1) Follansbee Survey (May 7) – J. Casinelli advised that this has been completed and reviewed with the Council. Mayor Velegol advised that this data can be shared with others; N. Schwertfeger will send information to the group in an email blast.
 - 2) Brooke County Ag Day – N. Schwertfeger advised that the project, coordinated by R. Greathouse in cooperation with Brooke Hills Park, is on schedule for May.
 - 3) Business Development Workshops – N. Schwertfeger indicated that it would be beneficial to tap the many resources in the region to support business growth and development
 - a) One Stop Business Center - Brian Canterbury
 - b) WVU Women's Business Center – Carrie White
 - c) West Liberty University Center of Entrepreneurship – TBD (Joan will follow up)

BROOKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- d) Bethany – John Lipinski stated that this would be a great opportunity for Bethany to contribute to the community. M.E. Yancosek Gamble, who chairs the college’s media arts department, said she was state director the small business division of the West Virginia Development Office and teaches a course on entrepreneurial media. She offered her assistance to the group.
 - e) Additional ideas such as web streaming, entrepreneur series rotated throughout the county, specialized workshops, etc. could be offered in the community and through area colleges and universities and advertised/supported through the EDA and local Chambers.
 - f) Ms. Beck stated that a “sign-up sheet” would be available for individuals to volunteer to join a subcommittee (Business Education Training) to define what training resources would be beneficial to county businesses and entrepreneurship. Volunteers included Bud Billiard, M. E. Yancosek Gamble, John Cunningham, Heather Stone, David Klick, Norm Schwertfeger, John Casinelli, John Lipinski, Larry Swanson.
 - 4) John Cunningham stated that he felt “uplifted by the discussion of the evening” and thought the group was heading in the right direction. He would be happy to assist where he could.
 - 5) Ag Day: Norm reported on need for funding for Ag Day which shall be held next week; 10-12 stations will provide Brooke County 5th graders the opportunity to explore agriculture and science. Bethany’s Equine support was volunteered by Dr. Heather Stone. The partnership between area business and this program offers great opportunities for next year. A \$2000 grant was received from the Resource conservation district. Norm proposed that the EDA donate up to \$ 1000 to the program; Joan seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. Norm will provide the necessary information to Larry; the EDA has handled the financials for this event in the past.
 - 6) Heather suggested that we update the web sites and minutes to reflect the POCs for the various area initiatives.
- g. **OLD & NEW BUSINESS: UPCOMING QUARTERLY MEETINGS & EVENTS:**
- 1) **May 23/24:** Brooke County Ag Day, Brooke Hills Park, Wellsburg, WV (Ruby/Norm)
 - 2) **June 18:** Brooke County Library, Wellsburg Visioning Event, 6:00 pm (Heather/Larry/Alex)
 - 3) **August 22:** Regional Tourism Meeting, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, WV, 11 am (Norm)
 - 4) **August 29:** EDA Quarterly Meeting, Brooke Hills Park, Wellsburg, WV, 4:30 pm (tour), 5:30 pm (dinner) – Bud, Joan, and Janice
 - 5) **November 14:** 3rd Annual Economic Summit, Dee Jay’s, Weirton, WV, 6:00 pm (Heather/Norm)
- h. **ADJOURNMENT:** J. Casinelli thanked the Bethany College for their hospitality and everyone’s contributions to the area EDA initiatives. A motion to adjourn was made by David Klick and seconded by Joan Beck. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully compiled by:

Joan E. Simonetti

Secretary

Attachments: (4)

- Attendance Roster
- Bethany Development News
- Town of Bethany Report
- BHJ Report

BROOKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

May 15, 2018 Meeting Attendance:

Billiard	Paul (Bud)
Casinelli	John
Coprara	Greg
Cunningham	John
Eberle	Alexandra
Ennis	Tim
Fithyan	Eric
Gray	James
Hoffman	Candy
Klick	Dave
Lipinski	John
Lowery	Rick
McClain	Karen
Monigold	Sharon
Moren	Helen
Rodenberry	Tamara
Schwertfeger	Norm
Scott	Warren
Simonetti Beck	Joan
Stone	Heather
Sutherland	Patrick
Swanson	Larry
Taylor	Candy
Thomas	Shelly
Velegol	David
Way	Thom
Wise	Stacie
Workins	Sharon
Yancosek-Gamble	M. E.