

Cheyenne-Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2024- 7:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting – Zoom & Cheyenne Regional Airport Board Room
4020 Airport Pkwy W Cheyenne, WY 82001

Board Members in Attendance

Shari Bremer, Secretary/Treasurer – In Person
Dr. JJ Chen – In Person
Dave Keiter – In Person
Kevin Marquardt – In Person
Josh Morris – In Person
Trey Rinne, Vice Chair – In Person
Mike Williams, Chair – In Person

Kristie Wilson, Align – In Person
Zach Valerio, Align/WEDA – In Person
Chris Brennan, WRA&B Counsel – Zoom
Charles Bloom, DDA – Zoom
Pat & Amy Currie – Currie’s Cuisine – Zoom
Minden Fox, LCCC – In Person
Linda Heath, Laramie County – Zoom
Renee Smith - Zoom
Amy Surdam, Zoom
Caroline Veit, Chey Children’s Museum - In Person
Patty Walters, YMCA - In Person

Others in Attendance

Brittany Ashby, Align – In Person
Brett Kahler, WEDA/Align - Zoom

The regular meeting of the Cheyenne-Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board began at 7:30 a.m. with seven of the seven board members present in person and via Zoom, with Mike Williams, Chair, presiding.

Action Items

The Cheyenne-Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board meeting agenda for January 23, 2024, was presented for adoption.

A Morris/Chen motion was made and seconded to adopt the January 23, 2024, meeting agenda. The motion passed as amended unanimously.

The Cheyenne-Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board, November 28, 2023, consent agenda was presented for adoption.

A Chen/Morris motion was made and seconded to adopt the January 23, 2024, consent agenda; November 28, 2023, meeting minutes; November 30 and December 31, 2023, financials; the December 2023 vouchers totaling \$26,392.20 and the January 2024 vouchers totaling \$16,900.24. The motion passed unanimously.

Partner and Grantee Updates

City of Cheyenne

Councilman Rinne emailed a report from the City Council of Cheyenne read by Chairperson Williams.

Laramie County

Commissioner Linda Heath reported for the County.

DDA

Both Charles Bloom provided an update. He also showed the 2024 Plan of Development Update and kickoff.

LEADS

Brittany gave a report for Betsey Hale in her absence.

Cheyenne Children's Museum

Caroline Veit provided the obligatory grantee update for the CCM for their 23/24 funding request by giving a PowerPoint presentation of the progress.

Visit Cheyenne

Domenic Bravo gave a report for Visit Cheyenne.

January 2024 – Board Topic

Review of 2023/24 Strategic Plan - Brittany suggests tabling this until next month after The Board can review. Chair Williams agrees and has tabled this discussion for February 27, 2024.

New Business

2720 Capitol LLC Funding Request

Amy Surdam presented a funding request for \$50,000 to help renovate The Bell Building which has remained an eyesore for downtown businesses for many years. Amy presented historical information on the building and the challenges they have as owners to complete the restoration.

LCCC/USDA Rural Eco Development Funding Request

Minden Fox presented a funding request for \$20,000 for award money towards winning high school student business ideas to help launch their business.

Cheyenne YMCA Branch/YMCANOCO Funding Request

Patty Walters presented a funding request for \$50,000 to help renovate the childcare center at the Cheyenne YMCA for more capacity, resulting in hundreds of parents working and continuing educational opportunities and employing more than 20 staff.

Old Business

Currie's Cuisine 2023-24 Funding Request – BOARD VOTE—(Vote tabled)

Pat and Amy Currie presented a funding request for \$25,579.36 JPB grant monies for their project at the Joint Powers Board Meeting on November 28, 2023. This request is up for discussion and vote.

A Chen/Keiter motion was made to table this decision next month to work on different options for grants and finance for Currie's Cuisine. Motion carries.

Mike Williams asked Pat Currie if the JPB assisted with getting Currie's Cuisine up and running by means other than the JPB grant program. Mike asked if the business out any traditional funding avenues. Pat said they have researched other avenues but were coming up against roadblocks and time restraints. Shari thought they would be a good candidate for other SBA programs or the JPB could help the Curries to get the more appropriate funding. This grant request is for essential equipment, which the acquisition of is time-sensitive.

Linda Heath suggests Roller Auctions restaurant equipment to help with finances. She is a big advocate for rural small businesses. Linda gave the Curries the links in the chat.

Dave asks if we can table this vote until next month when The Curries can research the right vehicle to get this funding. Kevin adds that the JPB needs to do whatever it can to support this business for Pine Bluffs. Time is of the essence as well. Brittany asks Mike to help us determine the correct avenue of funding.

They were considered a high risk by the local banks. They started Federal loan contracts as well but had come up to walls. They are high-risk and hitting roadblocks. Any guidance would be grateful.

Amy and Pat do not pay themselves, they are living off their retirements and savings. Brittany and Mike will dig into this, get them in touch with their banker, and investigate some resources with different opportunities. MOFI is an entity that helps businesses that are not quite ready for a bank and set up a meeting.

Wyoming Academy Update

JJ Chen provided a brief update and recommendation of the Wyoming Academy Update. Brittany Ashby reminded the board that the next Wyoming Academy class applications are due on March 15, 2024 .

By-laws Review Committee – BOARD VOTE

Chris Brennan updated the board on the by-laws review committee and the changes to be made. Updated language to be more consistent, the office address to The Align Team’s office and added proxy voting under a specific process. The committee also updated the election process of officers in the August meeting. After no discussion.

A Morris/Chen motion was made and seconded to adopt and approve the By-laws as updated by the By-law committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Marketing RFP Update

Logo, brand board, and website information was shown. Mike Williams suggested that the JPB send Brittany and Kristie feedback through email.

Adjourn

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m. The next regular Cheyenne-Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board meeting will be held on Zoom and in person at the Cheyenne Regional Airport Boardroom on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 7:30 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by:

Kristie Wilson

Minutes Signed by Chair after Board approval:

DocuSigned by:
Mike Williams
B2BF8D6BC9854E4...
Mike Williams, Chair
2/27/2024

Signature by Sec/Treas of Minutes Publication:

DocuSigned by:
Shari Bremer
8AAB636A1B5A47D...
Shari Bremer, Secretary/Treasurer
2/27/2024