

Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board

Board of Directors

March 23, 2021- 7:30 a.m. – ZOOM Meeting

Board Members in Attendance

Dr. JJ Chen
Scott Cowley
Dema Jo Gilbert
Sharon Fain
Mike Williams
Kim Withers

Others in Attendance

Brittany Ashby, Align
Kristie Wilson, Align
Amber Ash - DDA
Gunnar Malm – Laramie County
Tom Mason - MPO
Mark Rinne, City of Cheyenne
Wendy Volk, CRAFT
Gay Woodhouse

Board Members Not in Attendance

Matt Pope

The regular meeting of the Cheyenne Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board was convened with a quorum at 7:31 am, via Zoom, with Kim Withers, Chair, presiding. Roll call was conducted.

Action Items

The Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board meeting agenda for March 23, 2021, was presented for adoption.

A Cowley/Williams motion was made and seconded to adopt the March 23, 2021, meeting agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board March 23, 2021, consent agenda was presented for adoption.

A Fain/Gilbert motion was made and seconded to adopt the March 23, 2021, consent agenda to include the February 23, 2021, meeting minutes and the February 2021 vouchers totaling \$4,007.20. The motion carries.

Old Business

Update on Revolving Loan Fund

Kim reported that the Subcommittee is working on loan fund and made good progress in building a solid plan. The Subcommittee plans to submit a draft of the loan procedures at the April meeting. Before submitting, the Subcommittee has only one piece they wanted to clarify regarding how the County will administer the Revolving Loan Fund on behalf of the JPB. A meeting and a work session with County will be in April. Discussions were held on how to clarify.

RESOLUTION

A Gilbert/Fain motion was made to open a separate First Interstate account with the same with the same signers as the other banking relationship JPB for LEADS funding only. AMENDMENT: Will open per the agreements with LEADS and the decision of the Revolving Loan Fund.

Additional Discussion

This account will be for LEADS funding only and no mixing of County or Revolving Loan Funding will be in this account - an ad hoc account. Mike Williams assumes that LEADS will make contributions. Sharon Fain asks for clarification that the administration of the funds comes through LEADS or JPB.

Kim clarified that this would indeed come through the JPB. Gay will be drafting up an agreement with LEADS. They understand that once funds are given to JPB, they have no more control on how funds would be lent out. Dema mentioned the County loan funds are still in place and asked how we will know which to take out of. Kim stated the determination will be recommended by the loan committee or JPB .

Amended motion to resolution passed unanimously.

The Subcommittee will coordinate on this with LEADS.

New Business

Discussion on Board appointments

There are two (?) upcoming Board renewals. Mike Williams has agreed for another term and has submitted his application. There will be two vacancies as of June 30, 2021. One position City appointed and one Joint appointed. Dema has a few names of people in the eastern part of the county who would possibly be interested. Both City and County websites have announced the vacancies and have the applications available. Board Members were encouraged to find anyone interested in applying.

Partner Updates

City of Cheyenne

Dr. Rinne reported on the City Council meeting held on March 22, 2021, in the Civic Center. The highlights included April 12, 2021 will be held in the Chambers. A bid was approved for the East Park parking lot bought with the 6th Penny funds that will start right away. School districts will allow us back into the school facilities after Spring Break with the hopes of salvaging recreation programs for the spring. The Planning Office updating fees which haven't been increased since 1993. Union Pacific is looking to build a 6,000 sq.ft. building in the rail yard for \$4.75 million. Zoning for old Jackson's has changed as a health club with emphasis towards women. Liquor license review policy has been changed. Open Container ordinance for DDA district through summer has been approved. Approved a filing to Whitney Ranch as well as a contract for reconstruction of Nationway.

CRAFT

Wendy Volk reported on the \$62 million infrastructure investment on the runway most of the funding coming from federal government. This is scheduled to begin mid-April for 11 weeks with the last flight on April 15, 2021, resuming full service beginning of July. CRAFT requested from the Board for a portion of funds with a few different options to consider. An official application will be made through LEADS.

Downtown Development Authority Report

Amber Ash reported that Holly's replacement started on March 15th. Her name is Amber as well. They also hired a part-time administrative assistant who will work from 8:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Other highlights included a blizzard snow removal report and that a DDA photo of downtown Cheyenne went viral, was shared over 20 thousand times and reached 1.8 million people. A few thousand new followers were added to the Facebook page. The Open Consumption ordinance for the DDA district was passed. Curb and Gutter ordinance was passed indicating that the City is responsible for the curb and gutter with the owner responsible for the sidewalk repair. The DDA is preparing to submit for funds on planters and the F.I.P. Mendocino Building on 17th façade is almost complete.

Laramie County, Wyoming

Gunnar Malm gave a blizzard snow removal report. The COVID vaccine roll-out is still going very well

and they are looking for a large space for mass vaccinations. The 6th penny process will have an update at the meeting tonight and will be finalized by July for a November 3rd Election. LEADS, BH, MS and the County are lobbying to oppose a few bills regarding the Data Center Exemption Repeal. The County is preparing for the American Recovery Plan and how that will look. Local government will have more control over these funds which will be \$20 million for County and \$15 million for the City.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Tom Mason reported on the various projects for the MPO: a transportation plan "Connect 2045"; two big projects Walterscheid from Deming to College and Converse Avenue - Del Range to Carlson. Two new projects are East Pershing US30 east to Christensen and revamping the Transit Development Program to be more efficient. MPO will be presenting a scooter ordinance to the City soon.

Other Business

Gay Woodhouse mentioned the Woodhouse, Roden, and Nethercott (WRN) contract needed to be renewed.

A Gilbert/Fain motion was made to renew the WRN contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 am.

The next regular Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:30 a.m.