

**North Berrien Community Development
Minutes of the August 2, 2007**

Members Present	Representing	Apr	May	June 7, 21	July 5,19	Aug 2 & 29	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Cindy Aviles	Coloma Twp	X	X	XX	XX	X X							
Robin Jollay	Coloma Twp	X	X	X	X	X							
Barb Schofield	Watervliet City		X	XX	X	X							
Olive Grady	Watervliet City	X	X	X	X	X							
Jim Polashak	Coloma City	X	X	X		X							
Chuck Owen	Coloma City	X	X	XX	XX	XX							
Vick Kinzler	Watervliet Twp	X	X	X	X	X							
Dan Hutchins	Watervliet Twp		X	X	XX	XX							
Sandy Kraemer	Chamber	X	X	X	XX	X							
Jerry Jollay	Bainbridge	X	X	X	X	XX							
Butch Jarvis	Hagar Twp	X	X	XX	X	XX							

Others Present: Rodney Stanford and Chana Kniebes

Call to Order & Pledge: The meeting was called to order by Chair Aviles at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room.

Correspondence: None.

Guest: Aviles introduced Rodney Stanford to the EDC board and he spoke for a short time about his vision to get a bus transportation system running in the area for low income families. He would like to see fixed routes as well as periodic runs to Benton Harbor and South Haven for individuals that do not have any other form of transportation to get their groceries and run their errands. Aviles thanked Mr. Stanford for his presentation and said if there is anything we can do to facilitate this process please let the board know.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Kinzler and supported by Schofield to accept the minutes from July 5th, 2007 as presented. Motion carried.

Finance Committee: Schofield went over the finance report for the month of July. A motion was made by Jerry Jollay and supported by Kinzler to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$ 5,018.51 for the month of July as presented. Roll call vote. All yes. Motion carried.

Chamber Report: The next chamber meeting will be on August 14th at 12 noon at the Board of Trade.

Circus: Kraemer shared that the chamber will hold the Kelly Miller Circus at the Watervliet Airport on Friday August 24th. There will be 2 shows and children's tickets are already on sale by the marketer from the circus. There will be a meeting on Thursday August 9th to discuss parking at the airport for the 2 shows.

Education at Lunch: Kraemer reported that this event was very popular with 24 attending. We have heard many positive comments and hope to continue this educational series.

Business After Hours: 248 Event District September 13th beginning at 5:00 p.m. Invites will go out at the end of the month.

Old Business:

Planning Grant Request for Funds: Hutchins gave a recap on the request that was tabled from the June meeting. This grant is tied to job creation and is being sought to do a study to develop the 2,200 hundred acres in the I-94 corridor between Hartford and Watervliet. This is a \$100,000 study with MEDC committing to \$50,000 and USDA \$20,000. Aviles inquired if the study could encompass Coloma also and Hutchins replied that is has already been written and that it is grant specific at this time to the area between Hartford and Watervliet. There was a question on whether this study if done would be driven forward and Hutchins said that Hartford City Manage Yemi Akinwale would work to stay on task and move forward with project goals. It was not know by Hutchins if Hartford Township would be contributing to the funding of the project. Owen commented that he was under the impression when we restructured the CWAEDC to a "storefront" operation that it was decided if cities and townships needed funds for projects that they need to fund it themselves with our decreased budget and staff. Grady commented that she felt job creation was important to our community as a whole. After discussion a motion was made by Schofield and supported by Kinzler to fund \$2,500

toward the planning grant which would be matched. A roll call vote was taken; Aviles No, Polashak No, Robin Jollay No, Schofield Yes, Grady Yes, Hutchins Yes, Kinzler Yes, Jerry Jollay No, Jarvis No, Owen No.

Motion was not passed.

Hutchins thanked the board for its consideration in the matter.

PR & Marketing & Coordinator's Report Highlights: (Full Report on File)

Updates: Kniebes highlighted her report for the board.

Parade of Homes: This event was not very well attended. The food was wonderful and the homes beautiful.

Website: Kniebes has met with John Ruder from Genesis Web Design to go over things we want to change and items that we want to retain such as demographic information from the current web site. We will add the map from the area as well as have links to other municipal websites. There will be photos on the home page that we can change periodically.

New Camera: Polashak commented that the digital camera stolen at the Golf Outing from Kniebes should be replaced and the EDC should also purchase a camera for office use. A motion was made by Polashak and supported by Kraemer to spend up to \$600.00 to replace the stolen camera and purchase a camera for the office. Roll call vote. All in favor motion carried. Kniebes will check on the specific HP camera that was stolen to replace and look at options for a camera for the office.

Chair Report:

Strategic Planning: Aviles updated the board on the July 19th Strategic Planning Session as well as the municipal meeting to discuss the direction of Strategic Planning that took place on July 31st. The consensus of the municipal leaders is the focus of the meetings has been too broad and that there needs to just be one focus at this time. The municipal leaders felt is important to shift and define our specific goal to safety and drug intolerance in our communities and schools. Owen commented that with this focus maybe we can identify a specific plan and with six municipalities we can get the state involved and see some action. The next Strategic Planning session is scheduled for September 27th. This next meeting will be curtailed to an hour and just focus on this issue. There needs to be a good attendance from the school boards as well as police representatives. There was discussion that a different facilitator may be needed to go in this direction and drive the plan forward. It was suggested that Cornerstone could give us a lead on a project manager and or facilitator for the next meeting. Jarvis suggested that we keep the current facilitator until we know if we have another option.

Community Updates: Aviles asked if any municipality had anything they would like to share. Owen shared that once again the Coloma Glad Peach Festival Committee did a wonderful job on this year's festival.

Schofield shared that Watervliet City is wrapping up the water project and sidewalk replacements are still in process. Aviles reported that Coloma Township Hall is still waiting on how they will move forward with the repairs to the building.

Jarvis reported that with the ISO Rating change in Hagar some home owners could see a 30 % savings on their Homeowners Policy.

Jollay reported that the groundbreaking took place for the addition to the Bainbridge Township Hall.

Miscellaneous: A motion was made by Owen and supported by Jollay to give Aviles and Schofield the authority to approve the bid for a compilation to have the CWAEDC's taxes done and file an extension. Kniebes will contact Elie and Associates for an estimate.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Polashak and supported by Schofield to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Jollay Secretary,

Chana Kniebes Recording Secretary

