

Richland Economic Development

Joint Meeting Minutes

On **March 9th, 2023 at 6:30 pm** a joint meeting was held between a three-member ad hoc committee for Richland County, a three-member ad hoc committee for the City Richland Center and a three-member ad hoc committee for Richland Economic Development.

March 9th, 2023

The Cooperative Relations Team convened on Thursday, March 9th in person in the Conference Room at the Municipal Building.

Committee members present included County Board Supervisors Ken Rynes; City Council Members Mayor Todd Coppernoll, Alderman's Melony Walters and Carson Culver; Richland Economic Development (RED) Board Representatives Mike Breininger, Kari Honer and Al Lins.

Also present was Administrator Ashley Oliphant, Director Jason Glasbrenner, Richland County Attorney Michael Windle, Assistant to the County Administrator Cheryl Dull taking minutes, several County Board members, Council members, RED Board members and general public.

Not present: Marty Brewer and Melissa Luck

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Coppernoll, County Board Supervisor Ken Rynes and RED Board Chair Mike Breininger at 6:35 p.m. Roll call requested to determine quorum present.

1. Approval of the February Meeting Minutes: Mayor Coppernoll asked for approval of the minutes as presented. Moved by Alderman Culver to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by Breininger. All voting aye, motion carried.

2. Cooperative Agreements between the City of Richland Center and Richland County related to Symons Recreational Complex and Economic Development: There is no quorum from the County Board so it was decided no action would be taken at this meeting.

Economic Development - Mayor Coppernoll started out by saying he did not get a sense at the last City Council meeting that the city would be changing their plan from their intent to withdraw. The 90 days will expire and they will act at the April meeting.

Mike Breininger presented the RED Boards Economic Development Structural Proposal numbered 1-6. The plan is designed with the City providing full funding for the Economic Development Director (EDD), the County providing funding for a support staff and the Richland Economic Development (RED) Board continuing to provide oversight and direction of the Economic Development Director.

Extensive discussion from all parties followed concerning who would have oversight of the Economic Development Director and the future role of the Richland Economic Development (RED) Board.

Alderman Walters & Culver both stated that they felt the Council was in agreement that the oversight and directing of the EDD would be handled by either the City Administrator or one of the City's Committee and felt that an assistant or a grant writer for the Economic Development dept. would be the best use for the County's funds.

Mike Breininger, Alan Lins and Kari Honer all have continued interest in being involved in development discussion and planning but are unsure what the future role of the RED Board is to be.

Alderman Walters and Culver both agreed that if the RED Board doesn't come back in April with another proposal to engage, the city will vote on the decision as is but did add that the City of Richland Center welcomes hearing County development ideas regardless of the oversight decision.

Symons Recreational Complex – Mayor Coppernoll stated he feels there is enough support to update the 1987 Symons agreement. Although he feels there is issues with not having enough revenue. Either they need to increase fees or find another revenue source to sustain.

Kari Honer stated her family uses Symons. She feels there are issues with turnover, staffing and day to day maintenance of the building.

Discussion followed on capital expenses at Symons and finding funds to help cover repairs. It was felt if funds could be found to help with repairs, it could run in the black. Contact was made with Nettie Collins, Symons foundation president, she will come to the next meeting to speak to the "Team".

The RED Board agreed to review the Symons joint agreement and bring back suggestions.

No discussion was held on the campus streets.

Set Next Meeting Date: Next meeting to be Thursday, March 23rd @ 6:00 p.m.

3. Adjournment: The joint meeting of the Cooperative Relations Team adjourned at 8:18 p.m. by Mayor Coppernoll for City Council; by Supervisor Ken Rynes for County; and by Mike Breininger for the RED Board, all voting aye, motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Cheryl Dull
Richland County Assistant to the Administrator

Minutes reviewed and submitted by Economic Development Director – Jasen Glasbrenner