

Richland Economic Development Board

Meeting Minutes

for

February 14th, 2022 – 9:00 am

The Richland Economic Development Board will be meeting on **Monday, February 14th, 2022 at 9:00 am at the Council Chambers of the Richland Center Municipal Building, 450 S Main Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin** to discuss and/or take action on following agenda items:

Mission Statement: Fostering A community of Opportunity, Success, & Excellence

Board Members in attendance: Mike Breininger, Todd Coppernoll and Marty Brewer

Board Members absent: None

Advisory Members in attendance: Kari Honer, Clint Langreck, Ashley Oliphant, Bruce Roesler, and Eric Klang

Advisory Members absent: Don Fieldhouse

Director in attendance: Jasen Glasbrenner

Attorneys in attendance: City Attorney Chris McGough, County Attorney Mike Windle

Agenda

1. Call to order, establish that a quorum is present and that the meeting has been properly noticed -Director, Jasen Glasbrenner confirms the meeting was properly noticed.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by: M. Brewer

Second by: M. Breininger

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved Unanimously

3. Approve previous meeting minutes from January 10th, 2022

Motion by: M. Brewer

Second by: M. Breininger

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved Unanimously

4. Review and action on adopting new proposed Structural Document for Richland Economic Development and sending resolution of adoption to the City Council and County Board for approval.

M. Breininger gave history of RED Board, Director's position, and founding documents. M. Brewer suggested reinstating the county/city ADHOC committee. T. Coppernoll said some city council members had questions regarding the Economic Development Board founding documents. M. Breininger said the old ADHOC Committee was the same as the current RED Board. It was discussed that there is a ten-year agreement but it is not a binding contract. M. Breininger expressed concern that if we keep restarting the editing process, we will keep delaying the decision-making process. The primary point of reviewing these documents is to give the other members on the Advisory Board the ability to vote, rather than just attend meetings and have no voting rights. M. Breininger clarified that all the changes that were suggested by the RED Board, were already agreed upon, by both the City and County. The items we are reviewing today, are additional ideas that were proposed by representatives of the city and county. The possibility of RED becoming a 501c3 non-profit organization was

discussed. M. Brewer said he thinks we should approve the documents to approve more voting by more board members. M. Breininger began the process of reviewing the document and revisions that Attorney Mike Windle recommended.

Revisions as follows:

Change on page 1, Item 1 - to include the clarifying term, “parties.”

Motion by: M. Brewer

Second by: T. Coppernoll

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Change on page 2, Item 1Fi (a,b) – to include Vice-Chair (a) and City Council President(b)

Motion by: M. Brewer

Second by: T. Coppernoll

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Change on page 2, 1Fii(l) - to leave wording of Villages and Towns

Motion by: M. Brewer

Second by: T. Coppernoll

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Change on page 2, 1F(v) - Add, “Or City Council President” and Add, “ Or Richland County Board Vice Chair.” And strike, “who shall serve as ex -officio members of the Board.”

Motion by: T. Coppernoll

Second by: M. Brewer

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Change on page 3, 1F(vii) - Discussion on adding additional steps to the RED Board member confirmation process by requiring approval by the City Council and County Board.

M. Breininger said the RED Advisory Board members will get discouraged, that the City and the County are already represented on the board, and have the right to bring concerns at any time. “The process will be more cumbersome.” County Administrator Langreck sees the RED Board as bringing recommendations to the City Council and the County Board through its actions. L. Gentes, (County Board Member) states she is not aware of any other committee that appoints its own members (not voted in by the public). She has a concern that this public entity may become, “the Old Boys Network,” appointing friends and not being representative of the county as a whole. S. Murphy-Lopez (County Board Member) thanked the attorneys for research and making recommendations. He also had concerns of the RED Board appointing its own members. S. Murphy-Lopez said he is worried that the Advisory Board members need to be more Richland County wide and not just the City of Richland Center. He has a “geographic diversity concern” and suggested that outside business owners in villages and townships be included on the RED Board. T. Coppernoll stated this is not a committee, it is an Advisory Board. He also said that M. Richards, Tourism Director, is county wide and the City of RC is automatically included in Richland County. C. Culver said the RED board has the ability to receive funds as long as they don’t co-mingle funds. Attorney Windle stated that private donors can donate funds to RED without oversight from the City and County. Attorney McGough said they have discretion, but RED cannot start construction or build a facility without permission from the City Council and County Board. S. Murphy-Lopez said many other counties have 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4), which would fix some of the issues being questioned. M. Breininger stated a major change like that would take many months to accomplish and is not part of this effort.

Motion by: M. Brewer - No Change for 1F (vii) on Page 3

Second by: T. Coppernoll

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Change on Page 3, 1F(xi) - Discussion on how to remove a board member. Clarification on $\frac{3}{4}$ vote by Seated or Present Members.

Motion by: T. Coppernoll moves to use the word, "seated."

Seconded by: M. Brewer

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Change on Page 4, 2(B) - from the word, "sets" to "advises on"

Discussion as M. Brewer suggested the change, "to ADVISE policies, because elected people SET policies." He said the Advisory Board Advises. This is the heart of the issue. M. Breninger said that RED Goals are subject to City and County approval. The City Council and County Board are the policy bodies.

Motion by: M. Brewer

Second by: T. Coppernoll

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Change on page 5, 3 - Discussion regarding the Economic Development Director (EDD) position. Discussion regarding the employer of record, including the City of Richland Center in the language, and possible conflict resolution policy between the entities.

Motion by: M. Brewer makes motion to leave the wording as it is currently stated.

Second by: T. Coppernoll

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Change on Page 5, 4 (C) Private Contributions

Discussion: Attorney Mike Windle recommends no change to 4C.

Motion by: M. Brewer makes motion for no change to 4C

Second by: T. Coppernoll

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Change on Page 6, 8 regarding the Term of this Agreement

Discussion: Current term is 10 years. No changes to be made.

Motion by: M. Brewer

Second by: T. Coppernoll

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Change on Page 9

Discussion: Job description of the Economic Development Director (EDD) is currently in the RED Board Structural Documents. There was discussion around removing the job description out of the structural documents. Attorney Windle stated that any other references to the job description should be removed as well.

Motion by: M. Brewer-to remove EDD job description and other references to it.

Second by: T. Coppernoll

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Change on Page 2, 1F(ii) Add "Forestry" as a Commerce Sector

Discussion: C. Culver wants the term, "forestry" as a added to the description as 50% of Richland county is forestry. M. Brewer agreed this is a good idea. Attorney Windle suggested it should be a separate industry from the category, "agricultural."

Motion by: M. Brewer- to add "Forestry" as item M, separate Industry.

Second by: T. Coppernoll

Vote: Approved Unanimously

5. **Discussion and possible action on Economic Development Event.**

B. Roesler suggested that there is no need to have a Key Note Speaker and M. Brewer suggested that we should have a panel with a Q and A session.

E. Klang suggested we should have a discussion at the Event about the Need for Economic Development in the City and County. K. Honer suggested that demographic information, employment statistics, should be covered in the program. Suggestion to change name to Richland Economic Development Summit and to include the business community. E. Klang said “We grow or we are stale.” K. Honer said, “we need to change the mindset that Growth and Progress are not bad words.”

No vote was taken on this agenda item

6. Report on the presentation that was made by SW Wisconsin Regional Planning and Director Glasbrenner to the City Council regarding housing.

Item was not addressed at this meeting

7. Board Member Reports and Updates and Public Comments. No Board action will be taken on any matter originating under this item.

Item was not addressed at this meeting

8. Adjourn to Monday - March 14th, 2022 at 9:00 AM

Motion by: M. Brewer

Second by: T. Coppernoll

Minutes recorded by Rosanne Knower and Jasen Glasbrenner, Director