

Montezuma Community Economic Development Association

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on October 11, 2016

By: Leila Hanson

Minutes approved as amended by MCEDA Board of Directors January 10, 2017. Motion by Fred. Second by Haley. Motion approved.

In attendance: Tom Maley, Haley Leonard, Sarada Leavenworth, Laura Lewis Marchino, James Lambert, Chelsea Jones, Dave Hart, Claire Attkisson, Robert Dobry, Mary Sheperd, Pam Moore, Greg Kemp, Nancy Zimmer, Sanjiv Doreswamy, and Leila Hanson.

- I. Call to order: Dave at 3:08 pm.
- II. Approval of September minutes as amended: Leila motioned; seconded by Tom. Motion approved.
- III. Treasurer's Report: Cassie Alexander
 - September financial report reviewed and accepted. Sarada motioned; seconded by Bob. Motion approved.
- IV. Economic Specialist Development Report: Chelsea Jones
 - Business development update and presentations.
 - SB 152 opt-out: on November ballot.
 - Haley to put this on social media.
 - Dolores Rotary is in favor.
 - Send flyer to membership and website.
 - Meeting with EEA in November: How to work together regarding Broadband.
 - Chelsea can do a presentation.
- V. Old Business:
 - Membership:
 - Between now and the end of the year we are encouraging board members to talk to someone about joining MCEDA.
 - We will make a list of businesses that MCEDA will approach. Laura will send a letter to businesses that MCEDA has contacted to join, which will include "Join Now for 2017." Letters have been sent out to the county governments asking them to join as well.
 - For any new member joining in 2016, their annual dues paid would extend through the end of 2017. Motion: Leila motioned; seconded by Dave. Motion approved.
 - Sarada asked Chelsea to send a list of MCEDA members out to all board members. The list is now on the website. Chelsea will also send a Google spreadsheet to each of the members.

VI. New Business:

- Pam Moore: Represents HomesFund: which gives financial and credit counseling. Her presentation covered the availability of a First Time Homebuyers class monthly (in Cortez every other month), as well as down-payment assistance programs. Her focus is on working families. Her services are free.
- MCEDA Board of Directors: Openings
 - i. Dave invited members to be in touch with Chelsea if they should like to sit on the board. We would approve candidates at an election at the MCEDA meeting in November, with a formal approval at the annual meeting in March or April 2017. Two openings are available: one individual and one business or non-profit position.
- Empire Electric Association: Josh will work on allocating a representative to attend the meetings.
- The Sanitation Department is working on having a representative attend the meetings, and Tom is working with them.
- SBDC:
 - i. "Ten Fatal Mistakes Small Businesses Make" will be re-offered in Cortez in the spring.
 - ii. A variety of seminars have been organized in the local area, and more are anticipated.
 - 1. Leading Edge: Will start in January 2017. They will get a flyer out.
 - 2. Additional seminar topics might include agri-business workshops and seminars and business planning.
 - 3. They will continue seminars on tourist startups, etc.
 - iii. SBDC received a grant for \$50,000 to do outreach and will host an outreach program at the Ute Mountain Ute Shop, which is open to all.

VII. Sector Updates:

- Region 9:
 - i. Laura now leads Region 9 and has been heartily welcomed by MCEDA since the anticipation of her arrival. She introduced Sanjiv, who is new with Region 9 and works in lending. Laura continues to be a conscientious and supportive member of the team.
- City of Cortez: Fred
 - i. There has been recent, modest discussion of putting solar panels on the roof of City Hall.
- Jaynes: Claire
 - i. She sits on the Community Relations Commission Board in Durango. They are considering expanding regionally to create more of an area community relations connection for the Four Corners area.
- Axis Health: Sarada
 - i. She is assembling history on Axis from the local community, and is asking for input from members of the community who have knowledge of such.
 - ii. Her new advertising will educate the community on their full-service business.
 - iii. An Outreach Specialist starts with them in November to connect businesses and local services with their company and to inform others about the access

- for primary care.
- iv. Haley suggested that they advertise their mental health public hotline to continue to get the word out about this vital service.
 - v. Sarada indicated that there is a state line and the state has contracted mental health providers to work together for a common purpose.
- Southwest Health Systems: Haley
 - i. The building program is in process, EMS education begins, and the hospital is paying off financing which was put in place several years ago.
 - ii. Amendment 69 – Colorado Cares: There is a board resolution opposing this amendment.
 - Southwest Community College: Nancy Zimmer
 - o She is the new college head. She has been with the Pueblo system for nine years.
 - They have funds available for training permanent full-time employees for \$1,000-\$1,200 per employee. Allowable types of training include manufacturing, food and beverage, technical skills, bio-science, infrastructure, and engineering, as well as other fields.
 - Applications are due back in December.
 - Cluster grants have been successful.
 - Workforce training: can be customized
 - Private providers/employers are welcome.
 - They are exploring other training options such as OSHA training.
 - Their statistics indicate a very good success rate with post-graduate employment.
 - Pinon: Dave
 - o They will be holding a skate jam at Parque de Vida.

Adjourned: 4:45 pm.

