

Rapid City Area Economic Development Partnership Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2005
City School Administration Building
3rd Floor West
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Greg Bartron	Bob DeMersseman	Steve Flanery	Rich Gross
Deb Hadcock	David Hillard	Debra Jensen	Kip Larson
Jim McKeon	Bill Okrepkie	Karen Olson	Jim Pahl
Gloria Pluimer	Loni Reichert	Chuck Ruch	Rick Rylance
Dave Schmidt			

Guests: Jerry Brown and Mason Short of the Rapid City Regional Airport.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the July meeting were previously emailed. Schmidt motioned for approval of the minutes. Flanery seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

DeMersseman provided the July financial report. Copies of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss had previously been emailed to the board. The 2006 budget requests have been submitted to both the city and the county.

IV. AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Larson introduced Mason Short, Rapid City Regional Airport Executive Director. Short provided the board with handouts and a presentation of the proposed Airport Authority. Time was allowed following the presentation for questions from board members regarding the pros and cons of creating an Airport Authority. See attached for further information.

V. MAGNET AWARD

Larson reported information has been provided to the board for the selection of the 2005 Magnet Award. To date the nominees include Genesis Equity Fund/Tech Ventures and GE Finance. This award is given out each year to an organization that has or is completing a significant local expansion, relocation from outside the area, or shows a continual commitment to the community. The award is presented at the annual Chamber of Commerce meeting to be held in September. Board members were encouraged to submit additional nominees.

VI. BLACK HILLS VISION

DeMersseman reported a meeting is scheduled for later today with agenda items including designation of directors and formalization of a Local Redevelopment Steering Committee for Ellsworth Air Force Base Track 2. Black Hills Vision has been selected to be the lead in the redevelopment process if Ellsworth Air Force Base remains on the BRAC Closure List. Larson stated the Partnership's primary focus is economic development and at this time the focus is on the business incubator, expanding local companies and relocating new companies to the area. We will also continue to work on the removal of the base from the list and will support Black Hills Vision and the efforts of the redevelopment process if needed. Olson added it is important to know the Vision includes private and elected officials not only from Rapid City but also from surrounding towns and counties making Black Hills Vision a logical choice for the lead in the redevelopment process.

VII. BUSINESS INCUBATOR

DeMersseman reported the engineer fill has been approved and work has started on the footings. The board was encouraged to drive by the site.

VIII. ELLSWORTH

McKeon reported the focus at this time is on the Pentagon's projected savings from closing the base, which may have been reported to high. The projected savings over the next 20 years were figures as cuts in military jobs but these would actually be reassigned jobs to other places. BRAC will hold a final round of meetings next week, and commissioners will decide whether to keep Ellsworth and other bases on the list of base closures. BRAC will forward its recommendations to President Bush by Sept. 8. Bush has until Sept. 23 to accept or reject the BRAC proposals in their entirety. If accepted, Congress has 45 legislative days to reject the recommendations in their entirety, or they become binding. A lot of work continues behind the scenes including providing requested information to the commissioners. He also added the Congressional Delegation has done an outstanding job working as a team on this process.

IX. PROSPECT REPORT

DeMersseman reported work continues on inquiries from approximately four call centers looking for available facilities. We are working with the State on a possible hosting next week of a small bow manufacturing company. The Foundation has just completed a purchase agreement for a local expansion in the South Creek Business Park. The Foundation is also working with Lien's and City Planning on a TIF, based on a \$3 to \$4 million-dollar development in South Creek.

X. EX OFFICIO REPORTS

A. CITY OF RAPID CITY

Olson stated most city items were covered under other agenda items. DeMersseman asked about the progress of the 2012 process. Okrepkie stated at this time it is still at committee level and has not yet been presented to the city council.

B. PENNINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION

No report given.

C. SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Ruch reported SDSM&T would be presenting a plan to Black Hills Vision for Boeing to conduct a series of workshops for faculty, staff, students, and community members. The workshops would address Boeing technology and their Polymer/Composite Laboratory resources. The university looks forward to the return of students to campus the week of the August 29th.

D. WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Gross stated the faculty is attending in-service and gearing up for the fall semester with an anticipated record enrollment. The institute continues to work on the accreditation process and is in collaborations with SDSM&T on the Boeing project. Boeing hires the majority of WDTI's CAD students.

E. CAREER LEARNING CENTER

Pluimer reported they have succeeded in keeping their funding at the same level for the upcoming year. The Education Bulletin will be going out in September with expanded courses and distribution of approximately 75,000 copies.

F. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

McKeon reported the Annual Awards Luncheon would be held on Thursday, Sept. 1, and the Annual Meeting on Saturday, Sept. 24. The August Mixer will be held on Tuesday, August 23 in the Coors Tent at the Central States Fair. The slate of nominees for the Chamber's Board of Directors includes: Gerald Baker, Nancy Trautman, Dr. Charles Hart, Julie Smoragiewicz, and Randy Hamburg. Gerald Baker has notified the Chamber that he is unable to serve on their board due to other commitments.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Covered under other agenda items.

B. WEST RIVER BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER/GENESIS

Bartron reported they are working on a restaurant in Wall, an Empowerment Zone on the Indian Reservation to create a bottled water company, and construction of the assisted living facility in Hot Springs. Work also continues with Economic Development on a pilot project and collaborative development projects that will lead to new technology based business start-ups and expansion of existing companies. The N2TEC goal is to provide 100 vetted ideas to Black Hills area for consideration. See attached for more information.

C. SCORE

No report given.

XII. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Pluimer asked Okrepkie if the city council needed the Partnership Board to pass a resolution on the Airport Authority. Okrepkie stated yes this is what he was looking for. The board will put this item on the agenda for the September meeting giving board members time to speak with city council members and gather information before action is taken on this item.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Loni Reichert, Office Manager