

Rapid City Area Economic Development Partnership Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2007
Black Hills Business Development Center
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Dan Ames	Greg Bartron	John Carlson	Jeff Carsrud
Bob DeMersseman	Dr. Monte Dirks	Bill Gikling	Deb Hadcock
David Hillard	Greg Hunter	Debra Jensen	Jim McKeon
Jim Mirehouse	Karen Olson	Tom Rau	Loni Reichert
Dr. Charles Ruch	Rick Rylance		

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Gikling called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the March meeting were previously emailed. Carsrud motioned for approval of the minutes. Hillard seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financials were previously emailed to the board for review. Hillard reported the Other Income account continues to reflect grant administration income and income reimbursement from the Black Hills Business Development Center. A request has been submitted to the County for our 2007 funding. Hunter motioned for approval of the financials. Carsrud seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

IV. WIRELESS RAPID CITY

Carsrud reported the intent of the committee is to develop a business community survey regarding wireless. The proposed plan is to develop the survey via email in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and survey the business community over the summer. The committee will then meet again in the fall to discuss the results of the survey. Possible questions for the survey were provided to the board for review. The board was encouraged to contact our office with input regarding those questions.

V. BLACK HILLS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Mirehouse reported Phase III construction including build outs for two companies should be completed by the end of next week. Innovative Systems will be ready to occupy its space by next Monday. At this time the company has hired 6 students and 3 permanent employees. Employees are currently in Denver, CO for training purposes. Governor Rounds was in town last week announcing the opening of C-Lock Inc. which will be moving into its offices the end of next week. Negotiations are being held regarding a 2,500 sq. ft. laboratory and talks continue with prospects considering space in the incubator.

VI. PROSPECT REPORT

DeMersseman reported a large amount of work is being done with a large Fortune 100 Company involved in developing innovative solutions and the most remarkable technologies in defense and aerospace. The company has plans of expanding in Rapid City and is working on a press release for its public announcement. The company has

recently posted several jobs online for the Rapid City location. Employment at this time will include Software web developers, database administrators, and software development. Work is also being done with a consultant working with a customer service center. A hosting for this prospect is scheduled for tomorrow.

VII. EX OFFICIO REPORTS

A. City of Rapid City

Olsen reported she recently joined the Chamber of Commerce on its board retreat to Boise, ID. The two cities have much in common in regard to the perspective of city revitalization. Meetings continue in Rapid City concerning downtown parking issues. Growth Management will take approximately 6 weeks to review the information from these meetings and develop short term and long term ideas to help during the downtown construction process. Hadcock reported she is working on funding sources for the downtown area to reduce the burden on the same local businesses. Work continues on the downtown trolleys. A brochure is being developed by the Rapid City Visitor Bureau that will include routes and schedules. There are several construction projects going on in the downtown area including Kansas City St. and the Civic Center expansion project.

B. Pennington County Commission

No report provided

C. South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

Dr. Ruch reported the students are gone and construction will continue on the stadium over the summer. Trailer houses will temporarily be located on campus to house the paleontology laboratory until a permanent structure is constructed. The campus is providing space for Black Hills State University to hold evening classes as a short term solution for Black Hills States loss of space at its Ellsworth location. The SDSM&T is hosting the National SAE Baja Competition with 100 teams from around the world events will be taking place from May 24-26. Ruch invited anyone interested to attend and support the School of Mines teams.

D. Western Dakota Technical Institute

No report provided.

E. Career Learning Center

No report provided.

F. Chamber of Commerce

Carlson reported there will be a recap of the Chamber Board Retreat on May 24 beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Alex Johnson Hotel. Goods on the Go a transportation logistics forum will be held on May 21, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. The Chamber of Commerce Golf Challenge will be held on June 4 at Red Rock. Wally Amos will be presenting Relationships are Partnerships beginning at 10:00 a.m. on May 30th. Also Bob Ash will be presenting two seminars on June 5 including the topics Teaching Buffalo to Fly Like Geese and The Three Musketeers Were Right. The June Chamber Mixer will be held on June 12 at Canyon Springs Preserve. The Mayoral, City Council and School Board forum will be held on May 22 beginning at 5:30 p.m. For more information on any of the activities please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 343-1744.

VIII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Gikling encourage any board members interested in serving on the Development Arbitration Review Board (DARB) to contact the City.

IX. WEST RIVER BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER/GENESIS

Bartron reported N2TEC recently met in Rapid City to review projects. Rapid City was selected to be a pilot project to review intellectual property projects emerging from universities and developing into businesses. A meeting on How Innovation Works is scheduled for June 2. July 27 beginning at 3:00 p.m. Black Hills State University will host the N2TEC Summer Step Program Competition. Genesis of Innovation will be holding its board meeting on June 14. West River Business Service Center has become involved in low income housing and has currently placed about 50 units. The center has heard from several other communities in the Black Hills area regarding the need for additional low income housing. The center has surpassed \$30 million in its portfolio since 1999 and continues to experience great growth. Rau reported they are seeing approximately an 18% increase in the housing market since the first quarter of 2006 adding the market is getting stronger.

X. SCORE

No report provided.

XI. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Olsen reported the City is working on some federal funding. She added the community needs to work together and stay aware of those applying for federal dollars to show the community is working together as a whole and not individually on several little projects.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Loni Reichert, Office Manager