



Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes, November 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 p.m. Open meeting laws noted.

Members Present: Darcy Johnson, Derek Downer, Judy Jackson, Jan tenBensel, Logan Baker, Dave Custer, Randy Heitmann, Jarod Albers

Members Absent: Tom Shoemaker

Others Present: Melissa Jackson, Alynn Ahlemeyer, Jodi Cobb, Judy McCune, Karla Whipple

Agenda Corrections or Additions: None noted.

Consent Approval of Financials/Invoices and Minutes and Bills: Motion to approve the Minutes and Bills was made by Derek Downer, seconded by Jan tenBensel. Motion carried.

New Business:

Melissa Jackson gave an activities report to the Board.

Alynn Ahlemeyer gave a leadership class update, including the “Plug into Cambridge” project, event and brochure. Jodi Cobb presented print quotes to the Board. A motion was made by Jan tenBensel, seconded by Jarod Albers, to approve \$600 for printing 1,500 copies. Motion passed.

Darcy noted the need for a “Welcome to Cambridge” sign where the city limits start.

Judy McCune gave an update on the Bacon & Brews event along with a break-down of where Economic Development funds were spent.

Jodi Cobb gave a shop Chamber update, including retail and food service “Double Your Dollar” Chamber promotion through the end of the month. Chamber is also launching a Facebook Live promotion beginning Nov. 18 with downtown businesses. Chamber is investing \$1,000; Cobb requested \$1,000 investment from Economic Development for the promotion. A motion was made by Randy Heitmann, seconded by Derek Downer, to approve the funding. Motion passed.

Judy McCune gave an update on the Nebraska Dept. of Environmental Quality grant from the VW emissions settlement to fund EV charging stations across Nebraska. The grant application is due Nov. 15 and pays 50% of the cost. NPPD will provide 25% of the matching funds; the Cobblestone hotel is committing in-kind funds to cover administration costs for the grant, the hotel will provide wifi and electricity for charging cars (a free service to guests staying overnight). McCune requested the remainder of the 25% matching funds from Economic Development to fulfill the grant requirements.

That amount was \$3,523.18. A motion was made by Randy Heitmann, seconded by Jarod Albers, to approve that amount out of LB840 grant money to the Cobblestone Hotel. Funding will be contingent upon grant being awarded on Jan. 3, 2020. Motion passed.

Melissa Jackson gave an overview of using LB840 funds for hardship grants to downtown businesses due to the downtown project. Grants would be one-time special use crisis assistance. Jackson to meet with downtown businesses, research grant parameters and application process.

Discussion was held on the Carpenter façade grant application. A motion was made by Derek Downer, seconded by Logan Baker, to approve the application. Motion passed.

Project Updates:

Melissa Jackson gave an update on the Swisher/rental ground discussions; gave a business of the month activity update; and, noted that holiday ads for downtown businesses are currently running in the Valley Voice and McCook Gazette.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.