

***Pulaski County  
Community Development Commission***

Tuesday, 6 February 2018

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex  
Winamac, Indiana

Strategic Vision Committee Meeting Minutes

Members present: Executive Secretary David Zeltwanger, Membership Officer Doug Roth; Bill Champion. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer.

Members absent: Vice-President Annie Scholz [personal].

Call to Order

Director Origer called the meeting to order at 5:23*p.m.*

Discussion

Notes from the November meeting were reviewed and discussed, and the director then addressed each component of each Key Action Step in the 2010 plan, adding his insights regarding the individual steps and the overarching vision.

Mr. Champion emphasized the importance of regionalism, but noted that the conception of our region had changed over the years, and determining who the right partners are would be necessary. He further suggested that marketing the Winamac/Pulaski County Industrial Park should not be a high priority, save when solid interest in the site arises. Secretary Zeltwanger urged the director to reach out to local members of the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board to develop a better sense of what the regional workforce agency has been doing and can offer. Mr. Loehmer added insights regarding the potential financial benefits of wind development, but stopped short of endorsing pursuing such projects. The secretary reported that he had recently attended a downtown-planning session for the City of Rensselaer, at which the long-term benefits of focusing on downtown revitalization and concomitant small-business development were emphasized, with the efforts of Madison, Indiana, offered as a case study.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, Director Origer noted that he felt that he had enough input to begin drafting an addendum to the plan that would effectively replace the extant Key Action Steps section.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consent at 6:00*p.m.*

Regular Meeting Minutes

Members present: As noted above; President Gregg Malott, Executive Board Member Lawrence Loehmer (Monterey); County Commissioner Mike McClure, Aaron Paulsen (Chamber), Darlene Mellon (Francesville), Sheila Jimenez (Winamac); Beth Grund, Doug Hoffman, Samantha Williams. Project Coordinator Krysten Hinkle.

Members absent: As noted above; County Councilor Jay Sullivan, Suzanna Wilcoxon (Medaryville).

Call to Order

President Malott called the meeting to order at 6:01*p.m.*

Consent Agenda

With no requests for extraction having been made, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

Membership Action

Presented for consideration for the at-large vacancy were Marcy Fox and Kyle Sefchek. Director Origer briefly discussed their qualifications and backgrounds before opening the topic for member input. After significant conversation, the president called for action. Ms. Fox was first suggested for membership.

**Motion: Secretary Zeltwanger; second: Mr. Paulsen; no discussion; approval: Secretary Zeltwanger, Mr. Paulsen, and Mrs. Mellon; disapproval: all others. Motion failed.**

After the defeated motion, discussion continued briefly, and then Mr. Sefchek was proffered.

**Motion: Secretary Zeltwanger; second: Mr. Hoffman; no discussion; approval: all, save Secretary Zeltwanger, who abstained. Motion passed.**

#### Old Business

*2017 strategic visioning/ Pulaski County tax-revenue concerns:* After reviewing previous work and the current strategic plan, the committee hoped to present suggested updates to the 2010 plan at the next CDC meeting. Director Origer requested that someone replace Mr. Champion on the committee, and Mr. Loehmer volunteered. Updates were then given regarding the financial analysis the Umbaugh & Associates, a financial consulting firm, had agreed to perform for Pulaski County; Director Origer would not be involved with this project, per the request of the County Auditor.

*PC-CARE:* No progress could be made at least for a few months, due to the possibility that CSX would be selling the rail line.

*Hometown Collaboration Initiative:* Director Origer had still not heard from OCRA regarding the deadline extension, despite his seemingly endless requests. He continued to work with the Friends of the Panhandle Pathway during their endeavor to extend the pathway to Tippecanoe River State Park.

*RAM-Tech program:* Director Origer had met recently with both the outgoing and incoming teachers for the program and had spoken with a representative from Conexus regarding support for the incoming teacher during the first semester. Additionally, the director had spoken with Conexus and Amatrol regarding training opportunities for the new instructor.

*Wage-and-benefit survey:* Despite advertising and additional electronic reminders, responses had remained sparse.

*Leadership Pulaski County:* A project-restart meeting would be held on the forthcoming Friday.

*Tax-abatement process:* Director Origer reviewed standards and guidelines employed by Jasper, Indiana. Once he had amended the materials to suit Pulaski County's needs, he would send them to the Winamac Economic Development Commission and the CDC for review. Discussion ensued, and he asked that members provide any input that they may wish to share.

*2018 Summit:* Mr. Champion had received a commitment from the Indiana Manufacturers Association for a Summit speaker. Mr. Loehmer had offered use of the former Monterey School Building's gymnasium for the event, which would be taking place on 10 April.

*2017-2018 annual achievements report:* The Commission reviewed the annual achievements report and provided feedback. The report was approved by consensus and would be disseminated.

#### New Business

*Tourism marketing:* Mrs. Hinkle presented a proposal based on her review of the various opportunities provided by media outlets. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding other future options to consider — billboard marketing, developing an updated video, other television outlets, and which demographic cohorts should and should not be targeted —, and Mrs. Hinkle's proposal was approved as presented.

**Motion: Mr. Champion; second: Secretary Zeltwanger; no discussion; approval: all.**

#### Other Pertinent Business

*None.*

#### Public Comment

*None.*

#### Adjournment

**Motion: Mr. Paulsen; second: Mr. Champion; no discussion; approval: all. 7:07p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Krysten Hinkle, Administrative Secretary  
David Zeltwanger, Executive Secretary