

***Pulaski County
Community Development Commission
Strategic Visioning Committee***

Tuesday, 3 August 2021
Monterey Town Hall
Winamac, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 1 June 2021
Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Members present: *President/Committee Chair Sheila Jimenez (Winamac)*; County Commissioner Maurice Loehmer, County Councilor Kathleen Thompson; Bill Champion. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer.

Members absent: Membership Officer Kelsie Zellers [personal]; Lynn Johns (Francesville).

Guests present: None.

(Roman text indicates in-person attendance; *italics indicate telephone/Facebook attendance.*)

Call to Order

President Jimenez called the meeting to order at 5:00 *p.m.*

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as presented.

Motion: Councilor Thompson; second: Mr. Champion; no discussion; approval: all.

Key Action Steps Review

Real Estate Development: In keeping with intentions of minimizing business-attraction efforts, the Committee agreed to limit this K.A.S. to passive efforts and to remove the development of an assisted-living facility from the plan.

Entrepreneurial Development: President Jimenez suggested that future small-business workshops should feature existing business owners as well as consultant-instructors and recommended the development of a SCORE-like business-mentoring program. Mr. Champion recommended engagement with Ball State University's Entrepreneurship Center and coordination of economic-gardening efforts through Purdue University's Center for Regional Development, emphasizing the importance of organic growth. A past idea from former Commission member Annie Scholz to work with local banks to establish a recap fund was also considered.

Community Development & Capacity Building: Housing in the community was discussed, with specific emphasis on available stock meeting the needs of workforce at various levels; Mr. Champion mentioned have struggled with recruiting staff at Fratco without sufficient local housing. Commissioner Loehmer offered the example of the apartments built by Bill Goble on the north side of Winamac decades ago, and conversation also ensued regarding amenity-adjacent apartments and starter homes for young professionals. Addressing a dearth of daycare providers in the community and building out broadband were also discussed.

Tourism Development & Quality of Life: Discussion ensued regarding re-establishing the tourism advisory committee that had been set up as part of the County's participation in the Hometown Collaboration Initiative and re-examining the possibility of building a hotel in Winamac.

Review of May K.A.S. discussion: Regarding business-retention/-expansion efforts, Mr. Champion suggested the need for more functions in the community for idea sharing and imiar purposes, as well as the need for getting state-level representative in front of local industrialists to discuss workforce concerns and other relevant issues.

Partner Priority Review

Community Foundation of Pulaski County: Members agreed that relevant community-development tasks among the reviewed K.A.S. aligned with the vision outlined in the Foundations "Conversations with our Community" report.

Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce: The entrepreneurship, quality-of-life, and tourism topics discussed appeared to align with the Chamber's mission statement.

Main Street organizations: Members agreed that the entrepreneurship, capacity-building, and quality-of-life topics discussed appeared to align with Uptown Project's mission and vision.

Other Business Determined to be Necessary

None.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Champion; second: Councilor Thompson; no discussion; approval: all.
5:49 *p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan P. Origer,
Executive Director/Recording Secretary