



MINUTES

Newaygo Economic Development Organization Meeting

October 11, 2019

Call To Order:

George Heartwell called the Newaygo Economic Development Organization (NEDO) Meeting to order at 10:33 am at The Stream located at 1 State Rd., Newaygo MI 49337. Kim Goodin acted as recording secretary.

Roll Call: Present: Ed Fedell, Jason Harris, George Heartwell, Del Hirdes, Krista Looman, Steven Radtke, George Suchy
Absent: Ron Armstrong, Brooke Schaeffer, Cory Nelson

Others Present: Scott Faulkner, Jon Schneider, Colleen Lynema, John Buckley Jr., Julie Burrell, Morgan Heinzman, Scott Swinehart, Nick Looman, Lysh Curnett, Chris Ortwein, Chief Andres, Eric Kolesnikovas, Mitchell Murray, Kim Goodin

Motion by Looman, second by Radtke to approve the 06/28/19 NEDO Meeting Minutes. AIF/MC

Motion by Radtke, second by Hirdes approving Resolution N19-01 setting NEDO Meeting dates for 2020. AIF/MC

MEDC RRC Process Update:

- A. Faulkner stated that City of Newaygo is actively engaged in the Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Program with the State. He said the next objective is to finalize the Branding and Marketing Strategy.

Walkability Plans:

- A. Schneider gave an update on M-37 Bridge Construction and discussed MDOT's plans for striping once bridge work complete. He stated that TIFA approved funding for M-37 pilot programs to test different lane configurations downtown and discussed steps required for test pilots. Schneider said pilot programs to hopefully occur in spring 2020.
- B. Faulkner stated that City received a \$100,000 Tree Initiative Grant, but did not know details of grant yet. Group discussed maintenance and location of trees. Heartwell said he is exploring opportunity for Newaygo to get Tree City Designation.
- C. Faulkner gave an update on Newaygo Crossing Pedestrian Bridge and potential MEDC Grant. He stated this would be the 2nd largest suspension bridge in the State of Michigan. Faulkner working with DEQ and MEDC on next steps. He said that TIFA approved funds for annual maintenance and improvements of the suspension bridge. Group discussed additional options for pedestrian bridge funding if the City did not receive MEDC Grant.
- D. K. Looman and Harris discussed Bicycle Plan they have been working on and said they have broke plan into three phases with focus on first phase. Looman stated would like to focus on routes to school area and main route from downtown to uptown utilizing existing infrastructures already in place. Harris said they would work with Chief Andres on ordinances related to bicycles and sidewalks.

Housing Update:

- A. Faulkner stated met with two developers that are interested in Newaygo. He stated that Visser Brothers is planning to start project in January 2020 at River Run Center converting commercial units, with the exception of current east end tenant, into 15 apartments and expanding to 19 apartments once east end tenant vacates. Schneider said Visser Brothers may add more apartments in the future depending on the success of initial apartments.

- B. Chris Ortwein stated that his 220 acre parcel along the Muskegon River is for sale. He said there is a lot of potential, but his partner feels too much money required to invest at this time. Ortwein gave update on seminar he attended that discussed the economy and potential recession in coming years. He discussed other parcels he is in progress of developing for condos in Brooks and Croton Townships connected to his Ottawa Point development.

Christian Healthcare Centers Update:

Faulkner gave an update on Christian Healthcare Centers and stated City and Right Place working with them on site options in Opportunity Zone Areas.

IAmNewaygo! August Meeting Update:

N. Looman gave an update on IAmNewaygo Meeting that was held in August and topics were focused on environmental issues. He discussed comments and suggestions from residents and citizens. Heartwell stated that may be able to work with group from Grand Valley State University and options will be explored in coming months.

Right Place Update:

Burrell gave an update on projects in the County, discussed Manufacturing Job Fair that was held and had 200 plus attendees and said she is assisting Christian Healthcare Centers. She discussed Grow North Entrepreneur Series being offered at various locations throughout the County each month.

Newaygo Powerhouse Project Discussion:

Faulkner discussed powerhouse building (old museum) along the river. Group discussed ideas for building along with limitations related to parking and water and sewer. Topic to be discussed in more detail at next meeting.

Board and Public Comments:

Buckley stated economy doing good currently and appreciated hearing input from Ortwein.

Fedell stated that IAmNewaygo is not a City Committee, but a Citizen Committee. He said there are no appointments to this group.

N. Looman said nice to see all the younger people skating, walking and biking around Newaygo.

Radtke stated the museum is in middle of 1.2 million dollar campaign for museum expansion and hope to start construction fall of 2020.

Curnett asked about Shopko building and said many customers inquiring about lack of shopping options in Newaygo.

Hirdes discussed Medicaid/Medicare lower income programs available with no premiums.

Schneider gave Sewer Project update and stated for many small communities these projects not possible without funding options available with the USDA.

Faulkner stated that working with the Veterans Administration on potential sites in Newaygo.

Motion by Hirdes, second by Radtke to adjourn meeting at 12:22 pm. AIF/MC

Kim Goodin, Recording Secretary