

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Elena Uhing, Mark Frandsen, George Cress, Mark Nakajima, Bruce McVeen, Hope Kramer, Kelly Marks, Tim Budelman, Eduardo Corona, Clyde Fulkerson, J.J. Johnston, Ray Giansante, Lisa Duncan, Brian Wilbur, Don Jones

CITY STAFF: Dan Riordan, Jon Holan

ALSO ATTENDING: Jon Michael Kowertz

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Jeff King @ 12:12 p.m.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 10, 2013:

Jeff King asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the last meeting. Tim Budelman moved to accept the meeting minutes as presented. Mark Frandsen seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS & STAFF SUMMARY:

Jeff King reported on the trip he took to San Francisco in January for the Fancy Food Show. He said he felt he established a lot of good leads in the areas of food processing companies looking to relocate, and also companies looking for co-packers. He mentioned that there is a second food show coming up in March in Anaheim, CA that will be attended by George Cress. The state of Oregon will have a booth at this second show which Forest Grove will be a part of. Jeff also gave an update on the two videos that are currently being produced for the EDC. The Tourism video is finished, and is already up on YouTube. The second video is almost complete at this time. Jeff noted that later this afternoon an applesauce manufacturing company will be touring available properties in Forest Grove, as they are looking for a new facility to relocate to in the near future. Lastly, Jeff said that both Primetime Restaurant and PASCOR are both making a lot of progress in their current construction projects.

5. BUSINESS:

A. McMENAMIN'S HOST UPDATE:

Clyde Fulkerson spoke briefly and reported that the Grand Lodge will host their annual birthday celebration in March, as well as celebrating St. Patrick's Day later in the month. He mentioned that the Renaissance Festival / Faire will be in May, and that the Easter

and Mother's Day Buffets are two more big events that the Lodge is preparing for at this time. Clyde mentioned that the Lodge is always looking for people to hire, especially in the summer, as this is their busiest time of the year.

B. EDC BOARD OPENINGS:

Jeff King said that there is currently one EDC board opening at this time in the area of small manufacturing. This position has traditionally been held by someone from the wine industry, but the person who fills it does not necessarily need to work for a winery. Jeff suggested checking with various wineries around town, and possibly with Sake One as well.

C. URBAN RENEWAL UPDATE:

Jon Holan and Dan Riordan from the Community Development Department with the City of Forest Grove gave an update on the Urban Renewal Project that their department has been developing. Jon Holan noted that they will be giving an updated presentation to the City Councilors on Monday, February 11th, 2013. He said he would greatly appreciate any questions, comments, and input from the EDC members after they hear the updated information. Dan Riordan shared a lengthy Power Point presentation with the EDC members. He reiterated that Urban Renewal is a program developed by the state of Oregon to help cities revitalize and enhance specific areas that have either deteriorated, require updating, or have become unsafe or detrimental to the community. Dan explained that the Urban Renewal program is paid for through a tool called Tax Increment Financing (TIF). A TIF redistributes a portion of some property tax revenues to pay for improvement projects. It is not an increase in taxes, or a new tax. He noted that Urban Renewal programs are widely used throughout the state of Oregon with successful results. He also pointed out that eminent domain and/or condemnation is not allowed within an Urban Renewal Program, and that cities with an Urban Renewal Program still receive all of their tax income, and that no area will lose their tax income. Four examples of cities already implementing an Urban Renewal plan within the state of Oregon are Astoria, Canby, The Dalles, and Tualitan. This program could help to benefit Forest Grove by promoting use of existing buildings, stimulating job creation, and promoting green living. Dan said that they are at the point in the development of this program where it is time to approach the City Council and ask if they would like for the Community Development Department to move forward, and proceed with the final preparations for implementing an Urban Renewal plan. If so, they would prepare the proper reports to submit to City Council, and then the final step would be to formally adopt the plan, if the Council so chooses.

Brian Wilbur asked the EDC members if they would like to take a vote to endorse the program. Several EDC members had questions and concerns, and felt that they needed more information and insight about the program before feeling comfortable voting to endorse the program at this time. Brian noted that the EDC would not take a vote at this time. Don Jones suggested having a follow up meeting to further discuss details and issues that were questioned.

D. F.G. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VIDEO SHOWING – FINAL DRAFT:

Due to the amount of time used to present the Urban Renewal program presentation, Brian Wilbur decided to adjourn the meeting, and asked that all EDC members who would like to view the final draft of the Economic Development Video to please stay afterward.

E. TIMES LITHO BUILDING UPDATE:

None due to time constraints.

F. COMMITTEE UPDATES:

None due to time constraints.

6. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

None due to time constraints.

7. STAFF & BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS:

None due to time constraints.

8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT EDC MEETING:

The next EDC meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7th, 2013 @ McMenemy's Grand Lodge, in the Alice Inkley Room.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned by Brian Wilbur @ 1:40 p.m.

Approved by the Forest Grove Economic Development Commission:

Date: _____

Signed: _____

EDC Chair