

Meeting Minutes from October 2, 2014

PRESENT:

Carmen Gumina, John Cahill, Ann Kowal, Pat Murray, Bill Horeth, Tim Mason, Greg Chambery, Chris Passero, Michael Wojcik, Matt Chatfield, Ginny Nancy, Robyn Whittaker

Carmen Gumina welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the meeting held on September 4, 2014 were reviewed with no changes. Approval of the minutes – moved by Ginny Nancy; seconded by John Cahill - all approved.

Financial Report: Pat Murray provided the Board with a financial report for the months of August and September, 2014.

Approval of financial report – moved by John Cahill; seconded by Ginny Nancy – all approved.

Staff Activity Report: Matt Chatfield provided an overview of staff activity for the month of September. He met with Xerox Corporation and discussed the west campus property with Empire State Development and Greater Rochester Enterprise, GRE. The property is zoned industrial but that may change if the right project came in. Matt also met with the owner of a 5K race and would like to bring this event to Webster and coordinate it with Village Days in 2015. The goal is that the event would attract between 4 and 6 thousand people on a Saturday morning to kick off Village Days. The event would also make use of the Fireman's Field for possible live music and oversized inflatables. A track would run through the Village and the race would start and end on Main Street. It would be a great opportunity in the Village.

There has been a lot of small business assistance activity where existing businesses are looking for more space or they want to move to a larger space and WCCED helps coordinate resources to make sure they have what they need to succeed.

Another opportunity we have looked at is the full service restaurants. Webster is an underserved community for this niche. Webster can support three times the number of full service restaurants that we currently have. Matt said he has been in touch with Simply Crepes and there may be an opportunity for their business to come to Webster.

Matt Chatfield discussed the organizational mission of Webster Community Coalition for Economic Development (WCCED) which is to serve as a collaborative community resource dedicated to advocating for and supporting the expansion and development of existing businesses and the long-term, strategic growth of the Webster community. He elaborated on the idea of strategic focus which has always revolved around retention, recruitment, relationships and resources that people rely on. This is the work plan WCCED put together at the beginning of the year and we need to modify our approach and maintain our goals.

Matt provided a presentation on the benefits of having a formalized business retention and expansion (BRE) program. The board agreed this is something for continued dialogue. Matt was to begin assembling materials for the development of a Community Economic Assessment as the initial step toward developing a BRE program.

Round Table:

John Cahill mentioned on-going development activity in the Village of Webster; Morgan Management Development is in the final stages with the Planning Board and they will meet in November. Once Morgan Management breaks ground it will take eleven months to complete the 70 units. The Lyon Drive Development will be 38 units but they are two months behind schedule because of rain. The Department of Transportation (DOT) will have an Open House on October 21st to discuss the paving project next year. The announcement date for the TAP Grant is October 15 and hopefully we will have information by then.

Ginny Nancy said the Chamber of Commerce is in the midst of a strategic planning process and if anyone has any thoughts or ideas that would be very helpful. She also said that there would be a Health Insurance meeting for businesses and individuals at the Chamber on Friday, October 5, 2014.

Robyn Whittaker said the Business Improvement District will host a Wine Walk in the Village on Friday, October 5th. The Trick or Treat Trial will be on October 25th with possibly a movie in the Park at 6:30 p.m.

Carmen Gumina said the enrollment for the Webster School District has dipped by 1 percent and we are 100 students smaller than last year. We do not see a growth spike for the next 2 to 5 years.

Meeting Adjourned: Carmen Gumina adjourned the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 6, 2014 – 7:30 A.M. / Webster Chamber Offices

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary, WCCED
JC/ja