

MINUTES
TOWN OF ST. PAUL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015
TOWN HALL – 6:00 p. m.

IDA

Robert Harrison – Chairman
Frank Molinary
Harry Kelly
Mike Jessee
J. D. Cassell
Jack Kiser - Absent

Debora Baca - Secretary
Lou Wallace - CRVI
Robyn Lee - CRVI

Allen Gregory - CVTimes

Chairman Harrison called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Cassell to approve the agenda. A second was offered by Mr. Kelly and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the September 28, 2015 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cassell and passed unanimously.

Under Public Presentations, Allen Gregory thanked the Board for all of their hard work on the Willis Building Project.

Lou Wallace and Robyn Lee updated the IDA Board on the progress of the Clinch River Valley Initiative (CRVI). Ms. Wallace noted the purpose of CRVI is to promote economic development in seven counties and the City of Norton, along the banks of the Clinch River. During the last session of the General Assembly, they appropriated initial seed funding for the development of a Clinch River State Park. In the upcoming General Assembly session, DCR will be requesting additional funds for land acquisition and park development. The group has added several new access points and expanded the water quality program. Ms. Wallace encouraged everyone to support the establishment of an Environmental Learning Center here in St. Paul. She voiced opposition to allowing a learning center to be located in Abingdon because it needs to be on the river and on this side of the mountains. Robyn Lee of UVA-Wise talked about the “Hometowns of the Clinch Program”. This program will support revitalization efforts along the river. Ms. Lee said grant opportunities will be available for participating communities. She also talked about the “Entrepreneurship Summit” and the “Clinch River Youth Summit” held in March. Students attending the Youth Summit learned about the Clinch River Valley and the ongoing programs to increase economic development. Chairman Harrison mentioned that he will be talking with UVA-Wise about introducing hospitality classes through the business department, noting that St. Paul, as well as the region, will have a need for that type of training.

Old Business:

Chairman Harrison said the Willis Building Project Committee is getting very close to a final draft of a development agreement with Creative Boutique Hotels.

The Lyric Project is continuing to apply for grants and holding monthly bingo as a fundraiser. Ms. Wallace said the repairs on the Lyric roof have been completed and look very nice.

New Business:

The Southwest Virginia Legislative Breakfast will be held on November 16th at the Holiday Inn in Bristol. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Chairman Harrison or Debbie Baca to reserve a spot. The IDA will cover the expenses.

Mr. Cassell said there are still two parties interested in the Oxbow Center.

Mr. Kelly announced that the Lyric Project will be holding a fundraising soup and salad luncheon at the pool building next month.

Mr. Wallace said the road that is between the businesses on the left and the Rose's parking lot (known as B Street) needs to be striped. He expressed how easy it is to be out in the middle of the road and not even realize it. Mr. Kelly said he would look into it.

Chairman Harrison discussed the empty building assessment done by Main Street Director Kathy Stewart. He added his concern about Big M closing at least a portion of their business. A brief discussion followed regarding the impact of Big M closing or downsizing.

Ms. Baca reported that the Estonoa Learning Center has served 1,409 students in 2015 and more than 400 students in the month of October alone. She pointed out that this data further supports the need to have the expanded Environmental Learning Center in St. Paul. Ms. Baca also advised that the town has had an inquiry from a propane business owner interested in opening another business in St. Paul.

There being no other business to discuss, Mr. Wallace moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jessee and carried unanimously. Mr. Harrison adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

_____ Chairman

_____ Secretary