

MINUTES

Economic Development Committee

December 12, 2016 at 6:00 pm

Village Hall in Port Byron, IL

Call to order

Chair Wes Wells called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

Roll Call/ Establishment of a Quorum

Roll call: Present: Barb Cartwright, Barb Cray, Terry Foust, Ron Jacobs, Kevin Klute,
Wes Wells

Absent: Clinton Sullivan

Gallery- Questions and Comments

None

Administrative

A: Approve meeting minutes from October 11, 2016

Motion made by Ron Jacobs and seconded by Kevin Klute to approve 10/11/16 Minutes

All "Ayes" – Minutes approved

Old business:

1. Surveys
 - a. Received quite a few responses
 - b. Good feedback from businesses that did respond
 - c. Discussed some of the events covered in the surveys and the feasibility of continuing as-is or making changes
 - 1) Will to Ben bike ride – can we make changes to make it more an event for Port Byron?
 - 2) Baby Blues Fest – set date for July 1, 2017
 - (a) Should we sell wristbands?
2. Christmas Walk 2016
 - a. Happened on Friday – not much went on between the Library and the Vet Clinic
 - b. Should it be moved to Saturday afternoon in conjunction with "Christmas Traditions" at Port Byron Methodist Church
 - c. Should we tie more into Library?
 - d. Definitely feel we need more Christmas decorations and lights downtown

New business

1. National Geographic website
 - a. Look at site: Natgeotourism.com
 - b. Showcases tourism on Mississippi River from New Orleans to Bemidji MN
 - c. Wes wants to get Port Byron on the site
2. Impact of Exelon contract
 - a. "Humongous" relief for area
 - b. Would have proved economically devastating for schools and area

3. Potential Community Center

- a. Ron said that school district looked at possibility of Community Center several years ago
- b. Discussion ensued as to possibilities: Sandstrom Building? TIF District?
- c. Private individual?
- d. There is the Old Academy property
 1. Will invite John Corelis to come to February meeting for update

4. Welcome baskets for new residents

- a. Will bring up in future meeting, to hopefully undertake

5. Port Byron "Bucks"

- a. Like coupons, redeemable at local businesses
- b. Could be purchased as gifts, or offered as prizes or bonuses
- c. Wes knows a town where they do such a thing – he will try to find out more

Gallery- Questions and Comments

None

Adjourn

Moved by Ron Jacobs and seconded by Terry Foust to adjourn – all "Ayes"
Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Cray, Secretary

Next meeting date: Monday January 9 ,2017 at 6 pm.