

MINUTES

Economic Development Committee

January 9, 2017 at 6:00 pm
Village Hall, 120 S Main, St, Port Byron, IL

Call to order

Chair Wes Wells called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm

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

Lou DiLauro asked about the Village Rental Ordinance and who would have oversight and responsibility to inspect and cite rental properties

He also said the Ordinance on the web page is marked "Draft" and needs correction, and inquired if there is a list of rental properties available.

Administrative

A: Approve meeting minutes from December 12, 2016

Motion made by Ron Jacobs and seconded by Barb Cartwright to approve
12/12/16 Minutes

All "Ayes" – Minutes approved

Old business:

A. Baby Blues Fest

1. Three bands have committed so far – want to get four
2. Should we consider using wristbands? Accepting donations?
 - a. We felt that donations still best – so far
3. We need to formulate marketing strategies and timing
 - a. Came in almost on budget last year
 - b. Plan to request \$5500 in this year's budget
 - c. Also need to send a letter to local businesses asking for sponsorship

B. National Geographic Tourism Website natgeotourism.com

1. Wes is working on posting Port Byron pictures to the site

C. Further thoughts on business surveys

1. Some discussion as to frequent requests for feedback from local businesses
2. How often is too often to do surveys?
3. Should we do surveys after each "big" event, like BBF or Tug?
4. Decided to do one after Tug

D. FORC

1. Didn't get response from FORC, but trail is progressing
2. Several trees have been removed due to oak wilt

E. Future bike rides (e.g. WilltoBen)

1. Will not discuss money allotted at this point
2. We had minimal media and minimal “return” from Will2Ben ride
3. Other options possibly more user-friendly
 - a. Byron to Byron?
 - b. Savanna Sunday?
 - (1) Could eat in Port Byron at start of ride, and put name in to be drawn for a free meal in Savanna
 - (2) Kevin will make contact with new Mayor in Savanna

New business

A. Christmas lighting/downtown decorating

1. Definitely feel we need holiday lighting and decorations
2. Reviewed some of the catalogues and picked lights we thought appropriate for downtown Village for referral to Village Board
3. Possible goal to spend \$3000 this year and \$3000 next year

Motion made by Ron Jacobs to refer our recommendation to Board to purchase Holiday Lighting for downtown Village, seconded by Kevin Klute - All “Ayes”

B. Incentives to attract new business

1. Wes is inviting John Corelis, Realtor, to attend out 2/13/17 meeting
2. John Farrell, business owner, made several suggestions to use Village funds, TIF or other, to “incentivize” new business starts
3. Kevin feels we should more aggressively market the TIF Façade Program
4. Suggestion made to Invite Todd Wiebenga, TIF Administrator, to our March meeting

Gallery- Questions and Comments

None

Adjourn

Moved by Ron Jacobs and seconded by Kevin Klute to adjourn – all “Ayes”
Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Cray, Secretary