

Minutes of the Meeting of the Irrigon Community Economic Development Committee

09-08-09

6:00 PM

Dave Wood called the meeting to order and took roll call. Present were Dave Wood, Don Eppenbach, Vickie Volk and Laura Clark. Jerry, Jim and John were not present.

Don moved to accept the minutes and Laura 2nd. Approved.

The article for the Irrigon Irrigator will come out next month (October).

Dave has been going over a data base of Irrigon based businesses that he gathered from the internet. We all went through them striking out the businesses that were gone.

One good idea that was discussed was a hunting lodge on a parcel of land to go along with the hunting that is allowed here.

One other thing that is needed is signage. Signage will point out the entries into town, the wagon ruts by the cemetery, the marina, the sports park and the refuges. The committee voted on one thing to start with to get accomplished. Signage was the biggest thing. Laura volunteered to chair this committee.

While brainstorming about the vision for the community of Irrigon, another good idea was about the Skate Park. We need tournaments and businesses that deal with skate boards, bike repair. To go along with the river theme, we need businesses that deal with bait and tackle. Other thoughts were: river – family values – fruit stands – craft fairs – skate park tournaments – marina enlarged – fish cleaning station – Oregon Trail Days.

A thought about the name of Irrigon came up. Pro – “Where The Hell is Irrigon?” – Con is no one really knows about Irrigon, maybe a name change to denote the river theme, such as Stokes Landing.

As far as building homes here, one remark is that our SDC's are too high to encourage developers.

Other business ideas were cultural based typed businesses. A walkable downtown is something we will soon have. Guide service on the river.

Businesses need to be diversified, environmentally responsible, respect history and tradition.

Businesses most needed in Irrigon; winery, brew pub, watermelon wine, grocery store, expanded medical center, IMAC, lodging, Pizza/sub shop, something that is modern and up to date, lodging, RV park, Bed & Breakfast and hardware store.

Additional discussion regarded a spring fling – yard sales from Umatilla to Boardman. This would bring in a great deal of people and the larger chambers of commerce might be interested in advertising this. Another idea is a solar business or green business.

We need to unite the city- car shows, festivals, and the foster grandparent program can help.

Next meeting will be October 13, 2009. Meeting adjourned.