

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Irrigon Community Economic Development Committee

10-13-09

6:00 PM

Dave Wood called the meeting to order and took roll call. Present were Dave Wood, Don Eppenbach, John Sebastian, James Ray and Laura Clark. Gerald Breazeale was not present.

Don moved to accept the minutes and John 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

➤ Action Items

- The Irrigon Irrigator published the questionnaire, however, there has been no feedback.
- Laura is working with Patrick Knight from ODOT regarding signage for the town. We wanted to get information in time for the tippage fees, but the state has specific requirements and must wait for him. Patrick also mentioned he may have resources for a grant. We want signs for each end of town, pointing out the marina, the refuges and the wagon wheel ruts. John Sebastian mentioned that the chamber would be willing to match funds for signage.

➤ Irrigon Business Database

- 65 businesses within the 97844 zip code, 23 civic/churches, etc. Include IMAC
- Dave is planning to publish a for profit Business Directory for the 97844 zip code. He will also send us a copy of his data base and include the chamber of commerce

➤ Irrigon Chamber of Commerce vs Irrigon Economic Development – is there a conflict or duplication of efforts?

- The Irrigon Chamber of Commerce (ICOC) requested money from tippage fees to publish a brochure for the city of Irrigon. They were turned down.
- Discussion regarding business seminars vs business recruitment packages. The ICEDC is trying to recruit businesses (retention is easier and better), and let the chamber do the seminars and recruitment packages if they want.

➤ Commercially based fruit market for next year?

- Green Spot and Last Chance are the names of the existing fruit stands.
- Need to contact them before they are gone for the year.
- City should regulate but not run the market
- Might be better to call it the Irrigon Community Saturday Market and include crafters so as not to compete with existing businesses (fruit stands are seasonal, therefore you don't know if they will be back or not).

- Motion made and seconded to look into running a Saturday Market for next year, possibly at the ACH parking lot. Maybe IMAC could do this as a fund raiser?
- Dave may be able to help this entity after he gets done with the business directory. He will also write a blurb for the Irrigon Irrigator.
- School charge for parking lot rental – for non-profit there would be no charge. For business there would be a charge.
- Spring Fling needs to be added to next month's agenda to be discussed. This could be a very good thing, using the Umatilla and Boardman chambers of commerce to advertise.
- Feedback
  - There has been no feedback from the Irrigon Irrigator – are there other venues?
  - Watermelon festival- chamber luncheons – other committees and/or civic meetings – churches would be good ideas to distribute questionnaire.
- Other information
  - Laura will be on the support team for the LRA on the Chemical Depot. Thoughts for what people wanted needs to be shared so that Laura can be their voice at the table.
  - Regional Airport was a good idea by Dave Wood
  - Don Eppenbach is more in favor of solar as opposed to wind turbines.

Meeting adjourned