

# **Community and Economic Development (CED) Advisory Subcommittee for Unit 2**

Minutes of Meeting - August 2, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. (Virtual Format)

## **Present:**

Gina Caronna, Sherrie Taylor, Liz Vos, Heather Wick, Teresa Schwarz, Mike Delany.

## **Meeting Called to Order**

Meeting called to order at 12:13 p.m.

### **1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The first order of business was to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting on March 7, 2022. Mike asked Sherrie if there were any additions or deletions. She said no and made a motion to approve the minutes. Minutes were adopted by unanimous voice vote of those present.

### **2. Open Meetings Act Training Status**

Mike explained that all Extension Council members are required by the University and Illinois statutes to receive training. He asked members to forward him the certificate of completion. Sherrie and Liz both indicated they had not completed it yet. Teresa explained why certificates are collected, including compliance and civil rights audit requirements.

### **3. Introduction of Teresa Schwarz**

Mike introduced Teresa and explained her Extension role.

### **4. Review of SWOT and Needs Assessment Framework**

Mike reviewed the work from the March 7 meeting on SWOT. He noted that everyone agreed that the 'human connectedness' of the three counties was strong. He identified Liz as a 'key connector.' He emphasized that Extension's research-based programming should be driven by assessment of current needs and described the internal process he is leading to create a regular assessment framework.

### **5. Discussion of Key Needs**

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Liz identified housing, internet/broadband, and transportation (e.g., Uber). She noted that LOTS is helpful but limited in hours, and private-sector companies could add beneficial services.

Sherrie identified food access, housing (especially for low-income populations), and transportation (public).

Gina emphasized reducing duplication of efforts in community development and creating a comprehensive reference for resources - a 'listing of listings.'

Heather highlighted access to resources for Latino-owned businesses, interest in facilities investments, workforce availability, and supply-chain issues.

## **6. Regional Collaboration**

Members were generally positive about regional collaboration. Gina noted that COVID may have accelerated collaboration. Heather agreed. Gina cited a Byron High School initiative to create a CNA training program involving Ogle and others.

## **7. Entrepreneurship Education Webinar**

Mike asked for input on the 'Entrepreneurship Education' webinar idea for the LGE series. Heather referenced Growth Dimensions' work with Transform Rockford and the ACE event. Gina suggested contacting Sheila Hill from ThinkBig as a partner. Heather noted that the economy has taught young people to be employees rather than entrepreneurs.

## **8. Needs Assessment Interview List**

Mike asked members to identify people who should be included on the Needs Assessment interview list. Suggestions included: school superintendents, regional superintendents, the superintendent in Loves Park who also covers the regional alternative school, Scott Bloomquist, CEANCI, Martesha Brown, Matt Simpson, and Terry Voskul (CEO of Woodward).

## **9. Conclusion**

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Mike concluded the meeting with an invitation and reminder about the Council's Annual Meeting on September 27.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.