

POLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The meeting for October 17, 2019 of the Polo Economic Development Corporation was held at the Polo City Hall. The meeting was opened at 7:04p.m. by Susie Corbitt, President.

Members present were: Mike Faivre, Don Vock, Dustin Vock, Josh Faivre, Susie Corbitt, Betty Obendorf and Louise Hall. Also attending Randy Schoon, Brad Ohlwine and Kate O'Connor Absent: Tracey de Crane, Mark Scholl, Sydney Bartelt, and Greg Cross.

The resignation letter from Jim Cole was discussed; a motion was made to accept this by Mike Faivre with Betty Obendorf seconding. The vote was unanimous.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTORS: Dustin Vock introduced Brad Ohlwine who might be interestd in becoming a director. He is moving to Sterling in 2 to 3 months.

Approval of the minutes of the September 19, 2019 meeting:

Mike Faivre moved to accept the minutes of the meeting, Don Vock seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report of September 19, 2019

1. PEDC Checking Account
2. PEDS Revolving Fund Loan Account

Don Vock asked to have a summary of the outstanding loan account, Susie explained, Don moved to accept both accounts, Louise Hall seconded. The vote was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENE: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Affordable Housing: see new business.
- B. Discussion of Pharmacy:
Polo's Pharmacy will be open full time on Tuesday, October 22. There may be a ribbon cutting in November. A certified Technician, Jennifer Garman, will fill the prescriptions with face to face contact with the Pharmacist when needed.
- C. PEDC & POLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: NO REPORT

F. Discussion of area appropriate for the installation of water and sewer for possible new residential housing: Randy Schoon had the group look at city maps and we discussed residential possibilities. It appears that Sherrick's lots are platted and ready for construction. Randy talked to Willet and Hoffman and was told there is no flood risk as long as homes are placed in a pre-arranged pattern when they are built.

There was discussion that offering free city hookup for water and sewer and a free building permit would cost the city about \$1500 per house and would possibly be a good incentive to encourage 4 or 5 homes to be built. Randy mentioned that Stan Weber has property close to existing water and sewer hookups near the end of Meadows Road.

G. Solar Farm

Brad Ohlwine asked to talk about the possibility of a solar farm on the north side of Polo off Prairie Street. He had contact with Windfree Solar from Chicago and they are willing to offer lower prices for city agreements. Also Altace Power America is interested in leasing ground and financing a solar farm. Susie Corbitt has information from 1 ½ years ago. Brad was advised this information needs to go to the City Council as any decision about Solar Power needs to be made there.

OTHER BUSINESS: Susie informed the group of a fall summit meeting on October 25th at the Northwest Territory Historic Center from 9:15 to 1:15. The cost is \$30.

ADJOURNMENT:

The group agreed to adjourn at 8:45pm.

The next meeting of the PEDC will be Thursday, November 21 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Hall

NEW BUSINESS:

A: Discussion of SWOT ANALYZES :

1. Dark Fiber and the fiber optic cable is available when enough people sign up. Dustin Vock reported that in Rochelle 70% sign up was needed to cover the cost. Grants require 10% match by the city. Polo High School has dark fiber now with a cost of about \$18,000 per year. This covers all three schools. The Library pays about \$13,000 per year. Susie also mentioned that Craig Baling expressed interest in starting an incubator.
2. Kate O'Connor asked what audience we are trying to attract to move to Polo. Susie Corbitt replied one area was Seniors. Some currently in Polo need Assisted Care and/or Senior Housing units to enable them to continue to live in Polo. Don Vock said another area is young adults looking for tech opportunities. Dustin Vock commented that there are young families looking for newer homes.
Kate asked how people are informed about current activities and opportunities. Don Vock responded that there is nothing putting out such information. The group discussed the city web site, the Senior Center's monthly news letter and the library's newspaper weekly article about their programs.
Kate suggested using the High School for an ongoing class on community or a volunteer activity similar to the yearbook production. She offered to check with Polo High to see what is available and if a committee could be formed to initiate something.
Kate offered to put together a visual campaign. Susie responded that it would depend on the cost of doing so. Will continue to discuss this monthly per Susie.

B. Succession Planning: The consensus was that help is needed in organizing this.

C. Polo Marketing Strategies: We agreed that we want Polo to be a place for both the young and the elderly to enjoy. Green energy is needed and the town needs to be modern but serene. We discussed opportunities for young adults are needed as well as modern apartments.

D. Daves' Coffee Cake sales at Autumn on Parade: 452 cakes were sold even though the price had increased. 28 cakes were used for samples. \$1103.01 came to Economic Development and \$1245 to Knights of Columbus who had more workers. Don Vock said the split will be lower for the Economic Development group if more people can't work at the stand next year.

E. Possible Dog Park: Dustin Vock reported that the lot from the old Hotel is not large enough. He suggested that the Park Board be contacted about the use of the far west area of either of the two parks. Susie is planning to attend the Park Board meeting and will enquire. The estimated cost would be \$6500 - \$7500 for the utilities needed. More details are needed before the City can be approached for the investment of funds.