

POLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The November 21, 2019 meeting of the Polo Economic Development Corporation was held at Polo City Hall. President Susie Corbitt opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Members present were Susie Corbitt, Sydney Bartelt, Betty Obendorf, Andy Faivre, Mike Faivre, Josh Faivre, and Dustin Vock. Also, present was Alderman Randy Schoon. Absent: Louise Hall, Greg Cross, Mark Scholl and Tracey DeCrane.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTORS:

Dustin Vock stated that Brad Ohlwine was interested but could not attend tonight's meeting. He would like to invite him to the January meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

Andy Faivre made a motion to accept the October 17, 2019 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Josh Faivre. Carried by voice vote without dissent.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 2019 TREASURER'S REPORTS:

Betty Obendorf made a motion to accept the October 2019 treasurer's report as presented and the revolving fund account as presented, seconded by Dustin Vock. Carried by voice vote without dissent.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Discussion on Housing.

None.

B. PEDC & Polo Chamber of Commerce Business Interviews and Report of Chamber of Commerce October Board Meeting.

None.

C. Discussion on SWOT Analyzes.

None.

D. Discussion on Succession Planning.

None.

E. Discussion on City of Polo Marketing Strategies.

Kate is doing research on how to market a town and is trying to find a niche for Polo.

F. Discussion on A Possible Dog Park.

The Park Board determined that the parks would not work for a dog park. Dustin said that they would like to work on an area that already has a fenced area. He said someone had brought the idea up to the Dearborn's that own a property with a fenced in baseball field. They said they

would be interested in hearing a pitch. It was suggested to revisit this idea in the Spring.

G. Discussion on City Installation of Water & Sewer For Residential Housing Development.

This was not brought up at the last City Council meeting. Randy and Doug discussed this with Kendall Kyker and Mike Mumford, and they thought that it was doable to offer water and sewer installation for new construction.

H. Discussion on High Speed Internet.

Dustin has been in contact with Craig Bauling. Craig is in Texas for the next month. Dustin will touch base with him when he returns. They are looking to have technology programs for the youth in Polo. They are looking into the incubator program. Andy Faivre suggested Dustin and he get together to talk regarding the school's technology program. Susie stated that there are community reinvestment grant funds for EDC incubators and social media; she will look into this and bring more information to the next meeting. Dustin reached out to Hope Linker to see if she would be willing to come to one of our meetings next year. She is a self-entrepreneur regarding social media. Andy Faivre is working on applying for a grant for a maker's space that would benefit the students and possibly have adult classes as well.

I. Discussion on Kate O'Connor's Possible PCHS Volunteer Program.

Kate spoke with Beth Wiegman regarding their computer program. They both discussed apprenticeships for kids to get background in technology. They discussed a student run Facebook page in a journalistic way such as reporting on school events.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion on Economic Growth Corporation for Possible Grants.

At the fall summit that Susie attended she spoke with Brian Hollenbeck regarding a grant that we had helped apply for. He is the CEO and president of the Economic Growth Corporation. James Jones is the Housing Manager. He is coming to the December 2nd City Council meeting. Susie spoke with Greg Sparrow to inform him about James attending a Polo City Council and the grant. The grant is for Ogle County. The Single-Family Rehabilitation Program provides funds to assist eligible homeowners with critical home repairs. The program provides an opportunity to assist eligible homeowners to bring their homes up to standards. Eligible homeowners to apply for this program must earn at or below 80% of the area median income for the household size. Ogle County's median income is \$57,655.00. The Single-Family Rehabilitation program can award up to \$45,000. The Home Accessibility Program provides grants to low to moderate income seniors and disabled residents in order to make homes more accessible. This in turn helps prevent unnecessary and premature nursing home placement while allowing individuals to age at home. The grant funds can assist with home modifications and repairs, provided in many different forms and may include the addition of walk-in showers, installation of wheelchair ramps, fixing leaking roofs, and remodeling hallways and flooring for wheelchair access and more. This grant can award up to \$15,000.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Dippy's is closing this week. Brian is committed to making his payments and finding a new owner. He does have some people interested in purchasing Dippy's. Susie would like the PEDC

Screening Loan committee to discuss Dippy's loan.

ADJOURNMENT:

Josh Faivre made a motion to adjourn at 8:14 pm, seconded by Dustin Vock. The motion carried without dissent.

The next meeting of the PEDC will be held January 16, 2020 at 7:00pm.

Sydney Bartelt
Secretary/Treasurer