

State of Texas
City of Junction
Economic Development Corporation

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* **Regular Meeting – February 2, 2016**
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The Junction Texas Economic Development Corporation met for its regular monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, in the City Hall Meeting Room with the following Board members present:

President: Polly Robinson

Vice President: Mindy Supak

Secretary: Carol Neiman

Directors: Ron Fuquay, Jean Jacoby, and Michael Townsend. Director Nicholas Lumbley was absent.

Office Manager Amber Morales, *Junction Eagle* Reporter James Murr, Alejandro ‘Alex’ Gonzales III, Tessa Schmitzinsky, and Pam Ogle were present for the meeting.

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m., and Director Jean Jacoby gave the invocation.

Public Forum: James Murr provided board members with information about the Osher Lifelong Learning Classes designed for those over 50, taking place at the Texas Tech Junction campus. He also provided a current catalog of classes for the JTEDC office.

Consent Items: Jacoby requested a number of corrections to the minutes of the January 20 called meeting. Supak moved to approve minutes from the January 5 and January 14 meetings and to table approval of financials pending adjustments to be made to a number of budget line items. The motion was seconded by Jacoby and passed unanimously.

Update from Alex Gonzales on the Progress of City Sweets Business Relocation: Gonzales provided the board with copies of the results of an asbestos survey of the property at 1907 Main Street, in accordance with the EDC request for such a survey as a condition for the business relocation grant. No conditions were identified that would require any additional work or add abatement expenses to the planned renovations. Mr. Gonzales hopes to be able to move to the new location in late spring / early summer.

Update on Citizens Institute on Rural Design (CIRD) Grant Application– Carol Neiman, Amber Morales: Since the last meeting, Neiman and Morales visited with the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Tourism Board, and the County Commissioner’s Court to gain support for the grant application. Judge Roberts provided a letter of support, and the Chamber Board reaffirmed the support letter already received from Connie Booth. Finalists for the grant will be notified by the middle of March.

Handshake Registry: Morales and Neiman have begun collecting names and contact details for independent contractors as part of creating a “Handshake Registry” for use by newcomers and others in need of reliable help. Further discussion in the community is needed before putting such a registry in place, and Director Supak suggested this might be more in the realm of something the Chamber could do. It was pointed out that Parker Lumber presently serves as a contact point for many of these independent contractors and their potential customers. Also, such a program might

eventually be tied to efforts to match independent contractors and craftspeople with graduating seniors who wish to learn a trade and have no plans to go to college.

Need for Strategic Planning and Review of Policies and Procedures:

Robinson provided an overview of policies, programs, and procedures that are in need of review. The consensus of the board was that some things – such as the bylaws, investment policies, and the advertising and promotion grant program – could be reviewed in regularly scheduled board meetings. A review of larger grant programs would be better handled in the context of a strategic planning workshop. Tessa Schmidtzinsky of the PEC Community & Economic Development team (present at the meeting) is available to facilitate such a workshop, as she has done in the past. Robinson will contact board members and determine a good time for the workshop.

Office Manager’s Report – Amber Morales: Morales met with Doug Haynes and Tessa Schmidtzinsky from PEC regarding assistance they can provide in conducting a strategic planning workshop for JTEDC board members this year. A follow-up meeting took place between Schmidtzinsky and Carol Neiman, and copies of prior strategic planning workshops are now collected in the office for review. Albert Rodriguez from the Concho Valley Council of Governments came by for a visit and dropped off a copy of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CERDS) with a request that we make any needed updates for Kimble County. Jason Luna from the USDA came by to share information that might be useful to the City of Junction regarding grants and loans for water infrastructure projects. His contact information was passed along to the Mayor. The State Comptroller’s report was completed and submitted online, and reimbursements were made to two advertising & promotion grant recipients. An informative meeting took place with the director of the Eden EDC was also held, with Jacoby and Robinson in attendance.

Junction Texas Tourism Board Report – Polly Robinson: The tourism board heard a presentation from the state Disc Golf Association; considered and declined participation in Texas Trail Map advertising, a presentation about the CIRD grant application, and discussed the findings of a study recently conducted at the University of Texas related to the challenges presented to the Hill Country region by economic growth and development. No action was taken on any of the items.

Meeting adjourned at

Carol Neiman, Secretary