

CEDS COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 1, 2018

M I N U T E S

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Elan Vallender called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Elan Vallender, Jon Vlaming, Denyse Airheart, Marissa Garnett, Bobby Davis, Sandie Smith, Linda Oddonetto (sub Chris Collopy), Richard Wilkie.

Staff Present: Brad Mecham

Guests: Rob MacDonald, Alan Urban

A quorum was established.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, August 17, 2017

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the August 17, 2017 CEDS Committee minutes as presented. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. CDBG Match Funding and EDA Grant Funding

Mr. Alan Urban with CAG presented some information on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and its potential for match funding for EDA grants. Mr. Urban detailed the broad scope of CDBG funding and encouraged committee members to engage with him on potential projects. CDBG funding operates on a different schedule than EDA funds. This needs to be taken into consideration when applying for funds jointly. Mr. Urban also discussed CDBG's State Special Projects funding which is competitive against other projects in the state of Arizona. Mr. Urban also clarified the low-mod (low to moderate income) requirement and shared that CDBG projects can be neighborhood based versus community wide. State Special Projects can provide up to \$300,000 for a project.

Mr. Mecham provided information regarding EDA's grant programs. First, the EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs were outlined. This outline included information on the types of projects that could be funded, the \$100,000 - \$3,000,000 funding for projects, and the rolling application basis. Mr. Mecham then discussed EDA's Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program. These funds can be utilized for special studies and planning in the range from \$0 - \$300,000. These funds are also available on a continuing basis and processed as received. Both Gila and Pinal Counties qualify for a 50% match with some communities having the option to apply for a lesser local match based on per capita income and/or unemployment.

B. Tourism Opportunities

Mr. Mecham reported on a tourism opportunity for communities along the Apache Trail. Phil Russo, a local entrepreneur, has been managing a Facebook page for the Apache Trail. He is interested in growing the influence of the page which now has nearly 30,000 followers. The page highlights some of the recreational opportunities and heritage along the Apache Trail. The CEDS Committee expressed interest in meeting with Mr. Russo to discuss potential partnerships for future development. Communities that are along or adjacent to the Apache Trail include Apache Junction, Globe, Miami, and Superior. Mr. Mecham will work to set up a meeting of those communities with Mr. Russo.

C. CEDS Update and Call for Projects

Mr. Mecham provided an update on activities related to the CEDS. The CEDS is being updated to reflect the latest data and priorities for Pinal and Gila Counties. Mr. Mecham has been working with the Rim Country Broadband Consortium, participating on the Joint Land Use Study Technical Advisory Committee, and reviewing projects with EDA for funding opportunities. CAG will be partnering with GEOTEK to complete a Community Needs Assessment for southern Gila County.

Mr. Mecham will be sending out a call for projects for the CEDS shortly. This call for projects will be sent to economic development staff and city/town managers in the region.

D. CEDS Committee Roundtable

Ms. Garnett reported that the Town of Queen Creek's General Plan will be going to voters in May 2018 for approval. The Town Center Plan was completed recently and infrastructure development and the creation of an overlay district are key priorities the town is working on.

Ms. Smith reported that Pinal Partnership is awaiting the legal decision on the Pinal Regional Transportation Authority.

Mr. Vlaming reported that the City of Eloy is participating in Pinal County's Joint Land Use Study, and that the city will break ground on a new City Hall in April.

Ms. Oddonetto reported that the City of Globe has selected Ignite Marketing to work with them on a branding and marketing study. The city is also working on the creation of a 501(c)3. Globe is also working with the Town of Miami on a centennial celebration.

Ms. Airheart reported that the City of Maricopa is excited to have a new light industrial development partner. The RFP for Copper Sky Commercial, a 18 acre site, is out. The city will be hosting an Economic Summit on April 26th on entrepreneurship. Maricopa is also going through a rebranding for Maricopa Matters.

Mr. Davis reported that the Town of Payson will be conducting feasibility study of a public private partnership for the development of a hockey rink with accomplished coaches. This could bring 170 employees. The town is working with CAG on a transit study.

Mr. Wilkie reported that the City of Casa Grande will be completing their Economic Development Strategic Plan shortly. The City Council's Strategic Plan is also nearing completion.

Mr. Vallender reported that the City of Apache Junction recently rezoned an area for industrial and the site will be utilized for a powder coat facility, with 90,000 square feet under roof. This will create 50 new jobs with 25-50 potential jobs for the future. The city is also working on a general plan amendment for 30 acres to be transitioned to industrial development. The city recently completed a hotel feasibility study and is in the recruiting phase. The city is also exploring new housing options for multi-family dwellings.

VI. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be Thursday May 17th, 2018 at 2:00 PM.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Elan Vallender adjourned the meeting at 2:55 PM.