

CEDS COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 23, 2019

M I N U T E S

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Jennifer Evans called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jennifer Evans, Marissa Garnett, Jeff Fairman, Fernando Garcia, Elan Vallender, Bryan Seppala, Linda Oddonetto, Tim Kanavel

Staff Present: Brad Mecham

Guests:

A quorum was established.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, April 4th, 2019

Mr. Kanavel made a motion to approve the April 4th, 2019 CEDS Committee minutes as presented. Mr. Fairman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation from Woz U on Tech Skills Gap

Mr. Thomas Frederickson was not able to attend the meeting. This item will not be rescheduled.

B. CEDS Annual Update and Projects 2019

Mr. Mecham provided information on the CEDS Annual Update for the CAG Economic Development District. At the previous CEDS Committee Meeting in April, the CEDS priority areas were approved without changes. From the previous year's project listing, there were 25 projects completed. This year, an additional 16 projects were added. Mr. Mecham

highlighted that these projects provide opportunities for grant applications through the Economic Development Administration, as well as providing potential points on other federal and state grant applications.

Mr. Fairman reported on a conversation that he had had with EDA representatives, stating that they were anxious to see project submissions from the CAG region.

Mr. Kanavel made a motion to approve this year's CEDS Annual Update. Mr. Fairman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Recap – Central/Eastern Arizona Economic Development Roundtable

Mr. Mecham reported that the Arizona Association for Economic Development (AAED) hosted a Central/Eastern Arizona Economic Development Roundtable in Payson Arizona on May 16th, 2019. Several of CAG's communities were in attendance to hear an overview of AAED's mission, a presentation from a local economist on how to prepare for the next recession, and to participate in breakout sessions centered on workforce, broadband, and available building stock.

D. Opportunity Zones Discussion

Mr. Mecham highlighted some information that has been presented by the Arizona Commerce Authority and the Economic Innovation Group. He also reported on the U.S. Treasury's new guidelines that had come out on April 17th. In addition, priority points can be acquired on several federal grant applications for projects within opportunity zones.

Mr. Fairman reported that he had attended ICSC and there was not much interest from retailers, but there is great interest in opportunity zones from hoteliers. Mr. Kanavel also added that Pinal County has been contacted for industrial and housing projects in opportunity zones.

E. CEDS Committee Roundtable

Mr. Seppala reported that Resolution Copper will be submitting their draft Environmental Impact Statement in July, anticipating that the final EIS will be completed in 2020. Rio Tinto will be investing approximately \$300 million to initiate the next steps in the new Shaft #9 and will be targeting local businesses for procurement. Mr. Vallender asked about Resolution's supply chain and what opportunities could be available. Mr. Seppala also reported that the old Magma Mine site will under reclamation starting next month, initiating a 10 year project at an estimated \$60 million.

Mr. Garcia reported that the City of Casa Grande is working with Lucid Motors and Central Arizona College on workforce training. This would also provide training for the new Nikola Motors facility in Coolidge.

Ms. Garnett reported on Queen Creek's hotel development as well as the town's RFP for downtown development on town-owned land.

Mr. Kanavel reported that Pinal County's budget will be approved in June and will include additional funding for economic development. This will allow for an expanded marketing program that will include tourism development and supply chain marketing. He also reported that Pinal County property values are up 30% from the previous year.

Ms. Oddonetto reported that the City of Globe's downtown will be seeing three new live/work businesses open soon. She also reported that the Hill Street School sold and will be developed as mixed-use residential and retail.

Mr. Fairman reported an uptick in homebuilder interest in the City of Eloy.

Ms. Evans reported that the Town of Florence is seeing new housing development. The town is also updating its 2017 Strategic Plan as well as their Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

VI. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be scheduled for a date to be determined in September 2019.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Jennifer Evans adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM.