**MERAMEC REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE LUNCHEON**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2017**

12:30 pm

The meeting will be held at the Meramec Regional Planning Commission

large conference room, 4 Industrial Drive, St. James.

A light lunch will be served.

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Members in Attendance:** Kevin Stadler, Krista Snyder, Janey Radford, Randy Becht, Tabitha Stanfast, Keith Strassner, T.R. Dudley, and Rosalind Pride

**Staff Present:** Bonnie Prigge, Anne Freand, Linda Hollandsworth and Kelly Sink Blair

**Welcome and Introductions:** The group went around the room and introduced themselves and noted why they were in attendance and who they represented.

**Review of June 27, 2017 Minutes:** Staff reviewed the June agenda and the completion of the SWOT Analysis. Staff noted that since the meeting, each item identified has been grouped into one of 9 categories (Economic Development, Tourism/Agritourism, Human Resources & Human Services, Physical Environs/Natural Resources, Local Government, Transportation, Housing, Community Involvement & Communication, and Infrastructure)

**Prioritization of SWOT Analysis by Topic:** Staff placed priorities on the wall grouped into two categories (Strengths & Opportunities and Weaknesses & Threats). Utilizing the dot method, individuals placed dot stickers on their top 10 most important items that were originally identified during the previous meeting’s SWOT Analysis. The attached breakdown highlights items that were chosen as top issues.

**Discussion of Goals by Topic relative to SWOT prioritization:** The group asked staff to research and provide more demographics for the region for future meetings. Suggested looking further into poverty (free/reduced lunches, local community action needs assessment,etc.). Staff noted that the group needs to identify 2-3 action items for each goal. Staff noted that action items will be discussed for prioritized goals at the next meeting (January or February?) following the December Entrepreneurship Assessment presentation.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 12:00pm.

**Adjournment:** The committee adjourned at 1:55pm.