

**MERAMEC REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE/DEVELOPER'S LUNCHEON**

**Friday, April 8, 2016  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:** T.R. Dudley, Nancy Montgomery, James Morgan, Wayne Morgan, John Petersen, John Woodson (for Keith Strassner) and Ray Walden.

**Members Absent:** Byron Baker, Bob Baldwin, Jim Barnett, Ken Bassett, Mark Boyer, John Butz, Kathy Byrd, Carol Carson, John Casey, Donald Claycomb, Candace Connell, Byron Craig, Ted Day, David Dudenhoeffer, Tony Floyd, John Greenlee, Shannon Grus, Luge Hardman, Jan Haviland, Luke Holtschneider, Richard Huse, Robin Huskey, Thomas Leasor, Cyndra Lorey, Terry Palmer, Rosiland Pride, Janey Radford, Bruce Sassmann, Robert Schaffer, Krista Snyder, Carl Stephens, Marla Stevenson, Lowell Tonding, Butch Tucker, Randy Verkamp, Robert Vineyard, Janet Walker, Mark Wallace and James Wright.

**Guests Present:** Crystal Jones, John J. Gruidl and Kelli Behrle (Institute for Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Southeast Missouri State University), Dr. Sean Siebert (Cuba) and Dennis Rodemeyer (Cuba).

**Staff Present:** Bonnie Prigge and Lyle D. Thomas

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** Chairman John Petersen opened the meeting at 12:05 p.m.
- 2. Approval of November 17, 2015 Minutes:** Wayne Morgan made a motion, seconded by Ray Walden, that the minutes be approved. Motion passed.
- 3. Entrepreneur Assessment Overview:** Bonnie Prigge, MRPC Executive Director provided a brief overview of the Entrepreneurship Assessment project for the Meramec Region. At the conclusion of Bonnie's comments she provided Dr. Sean Siebert and Dennis Rodemeyer an opportunity to explain their activities within Cuba and the region to encourage, mentor and grow entrepreneurship opportunities.
- 4. Why Are We Here?** Crystal Jones and John J. Gruidl of the Institute for Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
  - a. Regional Entrepreneurship Assessment & Strategy Report.
  - b. Discuss resources for entrepreneurship in the Region.
  - c. Present opportunities for the Region with stakeholder feedback.
  - d. Discuss resources present in the region and what could be done to generate more interest in entrepreneurship.
  - e. Discuss the assessment process and next steps.
- 5. Why Entrepreneurship?**
  - a. Reasons communities are shifting to the entrepreneurial approach.
  - b. Different types of entrepreneurs.

- c. Examples of Communities employing entrepreneurial strategies.

**6. Assessment of Opportunities**

- a. Presentation of data culminating in a list of opportunities.
- b. Feedback from participants on opportunities.

**7. Feedback on Resources**

- a. Use Up & Out as visual aid.
- b. In pairs, participants will identify improvements already present in the region.
- c. Discussion ensues about assets for entrepreneurship that exist in the region.
- d. In pairs, identify the most important improvements that could be made or expanded throughout the region.
- e. Discussion ensues about the most needed improvements in the region.
- f. All improvements will be placed on flipcharts and voted upon.

- 8. Conclusion and Next Steps** The presenters and committee discussed the next steps to assessment and noted the plan would be completed over the course of 2016 with a draft submitted for review in the Fall.

- 9. Next Meeting:** TBD

- 10. Adjournment** Chairman John Petersen adjourned the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

- 11. Next Meeting:** TBD

Approved by the committee on \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

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**John Petersen, Chairman**