

**MERAMEC REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE LUNCHEON
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
12:00 pm**

MEETING SUMMARY

Members in Attendance: Tony Floyd, Randy Becht, Krista Snyder, Janey Radford, Cyndra Lorey, Tabitha Stanfast, Sean Siebert, Linda Hollandsworth and Lyle Thomas

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

Welcome and Introductions

Attendees and MRPC staff introduced themselves and gave a brief description of what they do/where they work.

Review of September 26, 2017 Minutes

Staff provided an overview of the September CEDS meeting summary and discussion of SWOT analysis and goals.

Entrepreneurship Assessment presentation: Crystal Jones, Director, with the Economic and Business Engagement Center at Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) presented to the CEDS Advisory Committee. A review of the 2015 assessment in powerpoint was given and copies of the document were passed out to those in attendance. MRPC noted that they were given additional copies and could provide them at request. Crystal presented the goals and noted that each goal section provides real world examples and/or links for the region to utilize.

Review of Community's Needs: MRPC asked each Advisory Committee member to provide updates on their local community's needs and any projects going on in the area they represent. Krista – noted a 100,000 sq. ft. building with 45-50 jobs, a new company in the spec building, additions to existing businesses, \$4 million plus capital investment in Potosi and Washington County. Needs include infrastructure such as natural gas and city street improvements.

Randy – noted 10,000 plus people coming to the Fort in the near future. County's need to increase industrial businesses. Currently have a housing surplus and positive workforce assets. Spec building ready to go.

Janey – Bank is exploring financial education and small business training. Potosi applied for MO Main Street.

Cyndra – St. James is waiting on an announcement for FYC project. Additional businesses looking in the Rolla area. St. James is working on grant for downtown plans.

Tony – In the process of purchasing TRAIN(?) – high speed internet for every household in Richmondville(?). IEC Coop in process of purchasing wireless system – 5 year plan to expand.

Linda – not a lot going on in subsidized housing.

Tabitha – GROW program in high schools, internships, and hospital. Hospital is financially stable but have staffing issues finding nurses.

Dr. Sean – Youth programs are going well. Cuba is expanding with new businesses. Need to continue to move towards a 21st century mindset.

Next Meeting: The Advisory Committee discussed meetings for the remainder of 2018 but not specific dates were set. The group discussed possibly meeting in March.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.