

Tamworth Economic Development Commission
Minutes
5/12/15

Meeting called to order at 7:05.

Members present: Pat Farley, Kelly Goodson, David Grasse, Willie Farnum, Dennis Quinn, Susan Ticehurst. Jim Hidden and Ellie Griffin excused.

Kelly Goodson moved, and Dennis Quinn seconded to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2015 meeting. The motion passed, unanimously.

Senior Housing:

- Willie reported that the financials work, however the facility is not currently available.

250th Celebration

- Street Fair will be held on one of the first two Saturdays in August of 2016.

Internship/Apprenticeship Forum Discussion Points:

- Recognizing that there are people who need a job or change of career as well as businesses that would like to assist with this.
- The intent is not to be an employment agency.
- Jim Harrison of Flatbread supports the idea of the forum.
- Data indicates that not only young students, but also middle age range people, are in need of this type of opportunities.
- One need this is intended to fill is to train employees.
- Apprenticeships will be tailored to the needs of the participants.
- The consensus was that the best time of year, based on employment needs, might be for an October forum with implementation in early spring. This would allow time for training before the busy summer season.
- The "Forum" will be an opportunity for employers and apprenticeship applicants to meet each other.
- Suggestion was made to have separate informational meetings for employers and interns/apprentices.
- A website will be created in advance of the forum.
- Consideration was given to whether the website should feature applicants, employers or both.
- Dennis stated that the website needs to be redone. He suggests moving it to "Alpine" for hosting.
- Emails to the EDC website will be redirected to Pat Farley and Dennis Quinn.
- Networking partnerships may be established with organizations such as the Chambers of Commerce and the Regional Roundtable for the purposes of getting the word out.
- Outlets for publicity include the Civic News, Tamworth Exchange, Conway Daily Sun, Carroll County Independent.
- Importance of preventing employees taking undue advantage of interns was noted.
- Suggestion was to consult with the Career and Technical program to learn from their experiences, complement their programs, and consider addressing any unmet community needs that they may have identified.
- Sunnyfield hires an intern every summer, exchanging the learning experience and a stipend for the labor.
- Apprenticeships were defined as employment positions. Internships were defined as unpaid experiences.
- Employers may need to be assured that their investment of time will be well spent.
- Balancing the efforts of and benefits to employers was discussed. It will be important to communicate these to forum participants.

Action items:

- All members will list benefits to apprentices
- All members will list benefits to employers
- Dennis Quinn will set up the website to redirect emails to Pat Farley, as chair, and Dennis Quinn, as webmaster.
- Dennis Quinn will have a conversation with Kristen to coordinate the change of website hosting.

Willie moved, and Kelly Goodson seconded, that the Tamworth Economic Development Commission approve the expenditure of up to \$180 per year for website hosting. The motion passed 6-0.

Membership:

Willie Farnum resigned his position on the Commission. The commission expressed gratitude for his many, many years of public service.

Next meeting to be held on June 9th at 7 pm at the Cook Memorial Library.

Dennis Quinn moved, and Kelly Goodson seconded, to adjourn at 8:09. The motion passed, 6-0.