

CITY OF UNION
Economic Development Committee
March 18, 2020 (via Zoom Videoconferencing)

Members in attendance:

Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner

Jeff Bowman

John Cole

James Collett

Steve Harper, BCPC Union Representative

David Plummer, City Administrator

Melissa Hinkle, Communications and Operations Director

Bob Jonas, Boone County Planning Commission

Mayor Larry Solomon

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Commissioner Jeremy Ramage.

Old Business: Commissioner Ramage updated that Buffalo Wings and Rings is well underway in the construction process and is slated to open sometime this summer. Mr. Harper updated that a Jimmy Johns Sandwich Shop had been approved to go into a new building being constructed adjacent to the new Starbucks on US42. This building is located in Florence.

Transportation Update: Administrator Plummer reported that the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is moving forward with construction on Mt. Zion Road, despite the pandemic, and that there was no new update since the Commission Meeting in March.

Boone County Planning Update: Mr. Jonas updated on the Urban Forestry Commission Request for Proposals (RFP) regarding the beautification of the Mt. Zion corridor. They have selected a consultant, NKSK, to design the corridor, and that a meeting is being planned of county, city and other officials to get a vision for the corridor with the NKSK group. This meeting will be set up via email and conducted virtually due to the pandemic. Mayor Solomon requested that the Public Works Committee have a member participate in this session for the City of Union.

New Business: Commissioner Ramage led a review of the vision and value statements for the City of Union and also for the mission statement of the EDC. After much discussion, a revision of the statement was proposed:

Old: Attract retain and grow a diverse and stable economic base which provides services and jobs to residents.

New: **Attract, retain and grow a forward-looking and stable economic base which supports services to the community, supplies jobs and contributes to a rising quality of life.**

The group also developed a list of objectives and goals for the group for 2020 and into 2021. These items include:

2020 Objectives

1. **Secure first Developer for the Town Center**
 - a. Develop practical incentives.
 - b. Re-evaluate current marketing approach.
2. **Continual Education**
 - a. Secure guest speakers to visit EDC meetings. Aim for 4 in 2020. *Donald Warner is scheduled for our April meeting already – need to connect to Tri-Ed for May.*
 - b. Speakers should reflect the makeup of NKY: Private Sector, Regional Actors, Professional Services, State of Kentucky
 - c. Look to Historical experts to figure out points of attraction in Union (Jeff Bowman lead?)
3. **Community Reinvestment/Retention**
 - a. Small Business Program or focus – Tri-Ed?
 - b. City Identity – the look and feel of the City.
 - i. Look to Historical Experts to help identify points of attraction in Union (Jeff B and Denny M lead?) Boone County Historical Society?
 - c. Gateway Concepts to designate the entrance to the City. Convey this to BCPC for the landscape study as well.

Wednesday, April 15 at 6 p.m. was set for the next meeting date. This meeting will be held by Zoom Videoconferencing, due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The public is invited to attend and can request a link to join the meeting.

The Meeting was formally adjourned at 7:08 pm by Commissioner Ramage.