

MINUTES OF JACKSON TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION MEETING

Thursday, August 21, 2014
Township Hall

Present: Steven Meeks, Todd Hawke, Tracy Hogue, Michael Thompson, Todd Locke, Cindy Hartzell and Mary Reno

Guests: Jean Campbell, Paul & Carol David YMCA and Tena Wilson, Stark County District Library

Steven Meeks called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Approve Minutes

Todd Locke moved and Todd Hawke seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurers' Report

Operation Account - \$ 251.96
Fundraising Account – \$3,527.98

Accept Treasurer's Report

Todd Hawke moved and Tracy Hogue seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Old Business

Steven thanked Jean Campbell and Tena Wilson for attending the meeting. Steven presented checks on behalf of the CIC Fundraising account to the Paul & Carol David YMCA and the Stark County District Library in the amount of \$1,763.99 for their expansion project.

Tena Wilson stated that the Jackson Branch Library is one of the busiest libraries in Stark County. A capital campaign will be launched in March. They are putting \$750,000 into the Jackson Library but need to raise another \$300,000 - \$400,000. Tena invited the CIC board to the fundraiser for the library at the Onesta Hotel on October 18, 2014.

Jean Campbell thanked the CIC board for the donation to the Paul & Carol David YMCA. Jean stated that she is so proud to be associated with Jackson Township.

Steven asked the board to discuss the budget for the CIC for the 2015 year. Todd Locke stated that in 2007 the CIC had a director that worked closely with the legislators in Columbus that was receiving a monthly salary. Todd Hawke stated that he has not had a discussion with the other two Trustees as to whether or not a director should be hired to work with the CIC. Todd feels that the points are very valid to have a director work with the powers that be in Columbus but that is something that would have to be discussed with the other Trustees. Todd Hawke has been talking with Randy Gonzalez regarding the abatement program and he feels that this program would benefit the CIC. Steven stated that he has not heard anything from the Trustees as to what they would like the CIC to get involved in. Todd Locke stated that back in 2007 the CIC asked the Trustees what they would like the CIC to get involved in and the CIC was told that they should come up with projects and present the projects to the Trustees.

Steven Meeks stated that he got involved with the CIC because he felt that it wasn't going in the direction that was helping grow the community; it was very reactive, not proactive and now it feels like it is at a complete stand still. We are here for the Trustees, all they have to do is ask for our help.

Discussion was held regarding new businesses coming into the township. Tracy Hogue stated that the new McDonalds in Belden Village thought that they were in Canton not Jackson Township. Steven recommended sending a letter welcoming the new businesses. Mary Reno stated that a welcome letter gets sent out monthly to all of the new businesses in the township. Tracy Hogue would like to see a representative from the Township go out and meet with the owners of new businesses and explain all that the Township has to offer. Maybe a part-time employee needs to be hired.

Steven Meeks stated that maybe the CIC needs to get involved with the Community Celebration that the township has every year. They could benefit from this event just like the other organizations that attend that event do. Why couldn't the CIC benefit by it? You can't just look at what we have presently to work with, we have to look outside the box and being creative at getting dollars if this organization right here is important to the township. I guess that's the decision that the Trustees have to make because if we are going to just meet to meet there is no sense in having the CIC. Cindy Hartzell stated that she is not going to sit on a board that just meets monthly and does nothing.

Mike Thompson stated the tax abatement program would be a great thing to get involved in however, the state needs to change their definition of "retail" otherwise it's a moot point. Mike would like to have a work session with the CIC and the Jackson Township Board of Trustees and discuss the possibilities for the CIC. Mike Thompson feels that the CIC would benefit from having a director again however, if the Trustees feel we would not benefit from having a director, then that is their decision. Mike recommended having a meeting with some of the larger Townships that have a CIC. Tracy asked if there are any active Township CIC's. Mike doesn't think there are many that are active.

Steven Meeks stated that he has had a conversation many times with township representatives that the Jackson-Belden Chamber of Commerce is available to help in any way they can as far as educating a business that is coming into the township but they need to be notified ahead of time not after the fact.

Mike Thompson wanted to know who the first public entity is that knows when a new business is coming into the township. Tracy Hogue stated that Regional Planning and the Township are the first to know but a lot of the time the only contact name is the builder or the architect and not the owner or sometimes no name at all.

Steven recommended having a Work Session meeting with the CIC, the JBCC, Joni Poindexter, and Randy Gonzalez to discuss new businesses moving into the Township and Operational discussion for the 2015 budget. It was agreed upon to have a Work Session on Thursday, September 4 at 3:00 p.m. Mary Reno will fax the press and send an email to Ryan Fulmer, Randy Gonzalez and Mike Vaccaro.

New Business

Nothing to report.

Public Speaks

No one came forward.

Mike Thompson moved and Todd Locke seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Motion carried.

Steven Meeks, President

Michelle Moore, Secretary