

To: Mayor Buckley and Members of the Beech Grove City Council.

RDC meeting notes from October 15th 2015

The RDC for October was a busy one. The RDC voted to pay bills of 22,530.71.

The RDC in preparation for the annual report covered the goals from 2015. We looked at what the board set out to do in November 2014 goals presentation to the City Council and what was actually accomplished. We managed to accomplish much. We also established the 2016 goals for the RDC as well. This will be presented at the November 2nd City Council meeting. And a copy of the goals will also be made available.

The board also discussed the 2016 budget. The budget will not be ready for submission to the City Council until the December meeting. The plan however is to limit spending and save money for St Francis or a possible Greenway Grant. There is also concern about the big box stores like Walmart and Lowes trying to reduce their property values. This has been done in other towns around Indiana. Board members are worried that this may soon visit Beech Grove Stores.

There was also discussion on the playing of recordings at city council meetings. While all agreed that it was legal to tape record meetings per Indiana law. The board members did have issues with them being played out of context. Whether this was for political gain or to smear the good people of the RDC, members feel it is very inappropriate, and wrote a letter to the City Council asking that this practice be ended.

Thank you for your time

Donald Webb

Beech Grove Redevelopment President

2015 Goals for RDC

1. Continue to foster and improve relationships on the board and inclusiveness. (value all opinions)
Results: *Board had good attendance and worked well together. Members stepped up when others were absent. Board also met when needed to discuss issues.*
2. Seek more knowledge of city's structure and a stronger relationship with the Mayor.
Results: *Mayor Buckley was at most of our meetings. He was more than willing to answer questions and has kept the RDC informed on such issues as St Francis and the Greenway.*
3. Work with Dr. Kaiser on partnerships between the RDC and the Beech Grove City Schools.
Results: *Dr. Kaiser was at the April meeting and presented on the importance of the May referendum for Beech Grove Schools. The RDC attempted to set up a training grant with Impressive Prototypes that would have allowed students to learn off site. The measure ended up not being cost effective.*
4. Get every city council member to attend at least two RDC meetings in 2015.
Results: *Councilman Davidson and Bell did attend our Greenway presentation. We were not successful in getting others to attend any meetings this year. It will be important in future years that either council members attend or at least one is on the board to increase knowledge and a working relationship.*
5. Hold a spring workshop in either March or April. The mission of this workshop would be to get all the different boards and city council members together to work on and improve communication and brainstorm various ideas to improve Beech Grove.
Results: *Did not happen.*
6. Update and revise the master development plan.
Results: *Did not happen.*
7. Complete at least four projects. Projects listed below.
 - Project signage grant to improve the presentation and bring a more uniform appearance to storefront signage on Main Street initially. With expansion to the rest of the City
Results: *Did not happen, still waiting on Marion County.*
 - Fund and complete various park projects such as resurfacing the road in Sara Bolton Park. New bathrooms, security cameras, new playground equipment, other infrastructure improvements.
Results: *A new bathroom in Sara Bolton Park was constructed. New water lines were run to shelters. New playground equipment for both Sara Bolton and Don Challis Park, Were installed. New carpet and floor refinishing for Hornet Park Community center was completed. New security system of cameras for the parks has been priced and will be added to make them safer.*
 - Proposed contributing to a new digital sign for the Beech Grove High School on Emerson Ave.

Results: School system was able to get this done without RDC help. Sign is great and was needed.

- Road improvements/ new sidewalks.

Results: Funded the first \$134,000 dollars of the Churchman Ave. grant. When completed this will remove truck traffic and add sidewalks. Improvements positively affect the safety for children.

- Sell and remove all the equipment from digital city.

Results: Completed.

2016 Goals for RDC

1. Continue the work on the Greenway. Support and have public meetings and keep the process moving along.
2. Assist with St Francis Hospital area should a resolution come about.
3. Continue work on sign grants for Main Street.
4. Create a grant program to help business operating inside the City of Beech Grove and new businesses wanting to move to Beech Grove.
5. Implement a Better Beech Grove work shop to foster ideas and more community involvement in the RDC and projects.

October 11, 2015

To Mayor Dennis Buckley and the Beech Grove City Council.

Mr. Mayor and council members. I have listened to the public comments which Mr. Joe Griffin made at the October City Council meeting, and I am outraged. Mr. Griffin edited and combined different comments of meetings and played them out of context or with no context. He has done this at two City Council Meetings now. One in April and one in October, I believe this is totally wrong and would ask that this practice of letting people play edited tapes at city council meetings be discontinued. Mr. Griffin has been very vindictive towards the RDC and its members ever since he was not reappointed. Over the last year Mr. Griffin has done the following:

He has filed two Open Door Law complaints, claiming violation of the Open Door Law. The first one was over not using military time and claiming someone could think the meeting was at 7AM instead of 7PM. The second complaint was so incoherent that the Public Access Counselor from the State of Indiana never even bothered to respond. But the RDC did have to respond to the complaints. The lawyers for the RDC had to review the complaints and submit a response to the Public Access Counselor. His unfounded complaints did nothing but waste taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Griffin also filed two Accesses to Public Records requests for two years' worth of emails regarding the Beech Grove Station project. The cost to the RDC was well over five thousand dollars as the RDC lawyers had to go through and check numerous emails for information not subject to disclosure, including matters subject to attorney-client privilege. They also had to check every email to see if it was relevant to the request.

In listening to Mr. Griffin's comments, he has accused the RDC of wrongdoing, with no specific details concerning the alleged wrongdoing provided. Accusing the RDC of criminal or ethical wrongdoing in a public meeting with no proof or merit is wrong.

To let the City Council know, the RDC has had legal counsel at its meetings. All meetings have either been taped or minutes were taken and provided to the Clerk Treasurer per meeting requirements. We have followed and met all state guidelines for reporting and filing reports as required by Indiana law.

As you know, members of the RDC volunteer their time to the RDC. They are not paid to be on the RDC board. They do this out of their belief in community service and making Beech Grove better. These are good people that serve the Mayor and you, the members of the City Council. It is not right that good people who work to help the city have their names smeared and reputations soiled by such veiled accusations. I would ask as RDC president, that you, members of the City Council, denounce this tactic and the unfounded accusations made by Mr. Griffin at the next City Council meeting.

I will be at the November meeting and will urge other RDC members to attend as well. Your support for the RDC board and the job they do would mean a lot for those members.

Thank You for your time

Donald E Webb

Donald Webb

RDC President.