

RDC March 2018 Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Beech Grove RDC was held on Thursday, March 8. The meeting got underway at 7:05 pm (1905 hours). Members present included: President, Don Webb, Secretary, Cathy Chappell, and new members Tara Wolf and Mark Rihm. Vice President Ron Mote was absent due to a prior commitment. Also absent was school rep, Rick Skirvin.

The first order of business was the acceptance of the February 2018 minutes. Tara Wolf made a motion to accept the minutes and seconded by Mark Rihm. The motion passed.

Next order of business was the outstanding bills presented to the RDC for payment. The vendors included: CrossRoad Engineers, the BG sewer works, Tim Showalter and Lewis & Kappes Law Firm. The amount totaled \$32,474.92. A motion was made by Cathy Chappell to pay the above listed amounts and seconded by Tara Wolf. The motion passed.

Mr. Paul Kaiser, Superintendent of Beech Grove Schools, was up next. He presented a guideline of a Strategic Planning proposal for the school system. The timeline in the form of Goals. The starting point as proposed, is to restructure the classroom configuration.

Below is Goal #1.

1. PreK-3 at Hornet Park Campus
2. Grades 4 & 5 Intermediate Academy at South Grove Campus
3. 6th Grade Academy at Central Elementary Campus

Goal #2 is the following:

1. Create a BG Early Childhood Center for 3 & 4 year olds.

Mr. Kaiser said studies show that many children starting their education with only Kindergarten or directly into the first grade are not prepared.

Many children do not know how to tie shoes, spell their name and in general, totally unprepared for an education environment.

Goal #3

1. The third goal is to create a BG Community Center that contains wrap-around services for students, patrons and their families. This facility is part of the 6th grade academy.

Mayor Buckley spoke briefly regarding the greenway trail. The total price of the trail is 3.3 million dollars of which the city has been awarded 2.6 million dollars. The project is scheduled to begin July 8, 2020.

Next to speak at the RDC meeting was Matt McElroy from CrossRoads Engineers and Michael Krosschel from Schneider Corporation. They gave a summary of where Phase One begins which is on 13th Avenue and ends behind the high school east of Emerson Avenue. Also present was Erika Vreoeveld, president of the Carson Farm Home Owners Association. She had a conversation with Michael and Matt regarding concerns of the residents of Carson Farms. Their concern is mainly a safety issue. The greenway trail will be open dusk until dawn and the concern is people being on the trail when it not supposed to be in use. Lighting of the trail is also a concern. Mrs. Vreoeveld says that many of the houses back up to the wooded area and the homeowners expressed concern of not being able to continue to enjoy the scenery. Location of the homes is one of the reasons for having moved to the location.

The following are highlights from the topic presented by Mr. Arron Lamb. For more in depth details please go to the Beech Grove web site and watch the video from the March 8, 2018 RDC meeting.

Mr. Aaron Lamb, recently appointed to the Beech Grove School Board, was the next to speak. He also wanted the RDC to be aware he was not representing the school board, but just a concerned citizen of Beech Grove. Mr. Lamb and his wife Theresa, a schoolteacher, moved to Beech Grove 8 years ago and the main reason was the outstanding school system. However, 8 years later 58% of the children entering kindergarten are unprepared to start their education. Mr. Lamb would like to see more money go into the BG school system. He did not suggest the RDC Commission disband, but he strongly suggested the RDC give up some TIF districts such as Walmart. He handed out some printed material regarding other TIF districts. He also emailed the RDC with some questions he would like answered. Attorney, Robert Rund, did answer his questions 1 through 5, but Mr. Lamb failed to check his email to realize some of his questions were answered. More in depth questions will have to be researched before answering.

President, Donald Webb, mentioned many of the successful projects funded by the RDC: a new road running north and south from the high school, Beech Grove

Station, investigating a company wanting to purchase St. Francis Hospital on 13th Avenue, and many more. President Webb also reiterated to Mr. Lamb the current RDC is still paying off bonds from the previous RDC for a project that was never completed. He stated that at no time has the current RDC invested in an unworthy project. Member Tara Wolf asked Mr. Lamb if there was something the school was asking for currently from the RDC and his answer was no. Mr. Robert Rund also commented that even if the RDC was willing to give up a TIF district, the funds would not go directly to the school, but rather to Capitol Projects Funding.

A motion was made by Cathy Chappell to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Tara Wolf. The vote was unanimous and the meeting ended at 8:20 pm (2020 hours).

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Chappell, Secretary