

Lansing Tomorrow Commission

Minutes for the March 06, 2009 meeting of the Lansing Tomorrow Commission (NC Rural Center STEP Grant). In attendance were Jason Ring, Mauvine Shepherd, Beth Rembert, Estella Goss Mrs. Rhodes, Carl and Nita Jordan Everett Adams, Shirley Farmer, Nita Church, Paul Combs, Brenda Reeves, George Rembert, Larry Blevins, Kyra, Rob Goss, Dennis Trainor, Kermit Wilcox, Linda Burchett, Frenchy and Marty.

Jason Ring started the meeting with prayer. Jason Ring brought before the group to hire Bernice Prestwood to do the minutes of the meetings. Nita Church said that Bernice did not want anything to do with this grant. But now she changed her mind if she gets paid. Nita felt that it was all volunteer and should remain volunteer and Nita has to have the minutes for her report anyway and she could do them. George Rembert said that they were trying to take some of the burden off Nita. It was voted for 5 hours a month for Bernice to do her job. Jason ask for a vote. There were 16 for Bernice, and 0 against her. It was carried and Nita she would take it before the Alderman's at the meeting on Monday. There was no meeting on Monday, but Alderman was called and it was 5 for Bernice and 1 against her. It was carried.

Jason also commented that there was no longer a Steering Committee. Paul Combs agreed with Jason. Beth Rembert and Mauvine Shepherd have applied to attend the leadership program. This program is designed to provide rural leaders with knowledge and skills necessary to promote sustainable economic and community development, while managing the challenges of economic transitions in rural communities. Paul Combs said that at least one would be picked to attend.

Nita Church had e-mailed Misty Herget about the money that wasn't spent. Her response was that it was prefer that it be spent. If for some reason it is not spent, then it will be revisited as to how to use the remainder of the money. Paul Combs gave several suggestions on how the money could be spent.

Mauvine Shepherd commented that the nit-picking needs to stop, and we need to get on with the business at hand. Also she suggested that the Alderman need to attend these meetings, and to show their support for the STEP Grant. Shirley Farmer said that everyone needed to get on board.

Paul Combs had 2 things he wanted to talk about. First, to review the discussion on strategy and the concept that came up last time. And do some critical thinking about this to see if this is where we want to go, and second, about the April 3rd meeting. I gave four items. 1. Business statement. It was suggested that we wanted it to reflect the concept of Lansing. Paul Combs said he changed the second paragraph third sentence to be consistent with the concept of Lansing. If the group still wanted the same concept that was planned in the previous meeting, it should be brought before the group at the April 3rd meeting. The next item reflects on the vision of the early American Village or European Village theme. George Rembert agreed that the statement was what an early American Village would look like. Paul also asked for the April 3rd meeting if Frenchy could do a painting of what Lansing would look like in our future visions. Beth said she would ask Frenchy about the painting. Brenda Reeves suggested that rock be used, because the church, the wall, the school building, and the Ms. Sapp house, and other features of the town were made out of rock. This would reflect early American village.

Paul talked about the four strategies.

1. Capture more local spending,
2. Capture more tourists spending.
3. Grow the area retiree and 2nd home populations.
4. Support and encourage business development.

He will talk more about the strategies on the April 3rd meeting. It was discussed how to get the word out for the April 3rd meeting. Flyers in the news paper, flyers in all business windows. Also in the April 3rd meeting, groups will go over and discuss the four strategies. The groups will meet in different areas of the meeting room and discuss their strategies. The four strategies groups are,

- **Capture more local spending.** - Carl& Nita Jordan, Shirley, Kyra, Betty.
- **Capture more tourist spending.** - Beth, Nita, Frenchy, Brenda, Larry, Marty.
- **Grow the area retiree and 2nd homes populations.** - Madeline, and Jason.

- **Support and encourage business development.** - George, Mauvine, Everett, Rob, Kermit, Dennis. Paul suggested that everyone get on the phone with friends and family and get the on board with your group.

Nita Church wanted to meet with the food committee to decide what food would be served at the April 3rd meeting. Suggested were Hamburgers and Hot dogs with Frenchy making organic chilli.

Beth Rembert asked how long it would take. Paul said that if the meeting convened at 6:00 and then they divided into groups and we could closed about 8:00. We could eat at 5:00, the meeting would be from 6:00-7:00, and the group discussion would be from 7:00-8:00.

The subcommittees should develop project proposals for presentation for the LTC, and at the end of June have it ready to presentation to the Town Board and the NCSTEP people.

When the groups feel they have discussed all they need to, they may leave. But it might take some groups longer than others.

Beth has permission (by vote) to come before the Board of Alderman for \$500 for a banner to go across the road. Shirley Farmer made a motion and George seconded and the vote was carried. The meeting was adjourned.