

Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee October 2, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by Chairman Dan Harri.

Members present: Peg Kauppi, Gina Nicholas, Don Piche, Jill Protzel, John Sturos, Don Secor, Ned Huwatschek and Dan Harri.

Member(s) absent: Richard Schaefer

The October meeting agenda was approved with a motion by John Sturos, seconded by Ned Huwatschek. Motion carried.

Minutes of the September 4, 2013 meeting were read and approved with a motion by Peg Kauppi, seconded by Don Secor. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker(s):

Jill Protzel read aloud a letter from Don Kilpela Jr. asking for sponsorship for the improvement of the holiday lights display in the Grant Township Park. On a motion by Dan Harri, seconded by Peg Kauppi, the committee recommends Don goes to the board with a request of \$500 per year for 3 years. All in favor.

Old Business –

Keweenaw County Recreational Trails (KCRT): Don Piche reported that Don Kauppi is working on a grant through the Michigan Trust Fund. Gina Nicholas suggested getting support with writing the proposal.

KC Communications infrastructure: Don Secor reported that Pastynet is getting close to linking with CLK Schools.

KC Marketing: Dan Haari passed out a draft of an informational brochure about KC Lodging and Dining businesses for the committee's approval. He is planning to have the brochures available for distribution at the Keweenaw business mixer on Oct 17th at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge.

New Business –

Planning Commission: Ned Huwatschek reported that Charlie from Pastynet said there have been many unforeseen delays, but the fiber should be up and running by late fall.

Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners: Don Piche reported that the board approved the \$3000 asked for the KC Lodging and Dining rack cards. Thank you to the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners.

Additions:

Peg Kauppi: The health of a county depends on its tax base. Keweenaw County has a need for housing in order to keep a quality work force. MSHDA will need a Target Market Analysis (TMA) done for Keweenaw County at a cost of \$30,000. A TMA will be needed for any low income housing grants. MSHDA contributes half and the Copper Harbor DDA has already pledged \$5,000. Since the TMA will be done at the county level, and useful for any grant opportunity, perhaps each township should contribute.

Dan Harri: The Keweenaw Business Exchange is set for Thursday, October 17th at 5:00 p.m. at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge. The goal of this exchange is to gather information from KC businesses on how the EDC can help promote the area. Name tags and a survey will be available at the registration table.

Public Comments: none

On a motion by Dan Harri, seconded by Peg Kauppi, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.