

Committee Members

Mayor Joe Stear	Randy Shroll
Lisa Bachman	Mike Smith
David Gronbeck	Blake Watson
Casey Grant	
Karri Keller	City Staff:
Kara Medrano	Wendy Howell
Ana Paz	Robin Collins
Julie Roberts	



CITY OF KUNA

Kuna City Hall Conference Room, 751 W 4th Street, Kuna, Idaho 83634

**Kuna Economic Development Committee
MINUTES**

Thursday, January 4, 2018

12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Mayor Stear opened the meeting and asked that everyone in attendance introduce themselves.

In attendance:

Guests:

Mayor Joe Stear	Wendy Howell
David Gronbeck	Robin Collins
Kara Medrano	Blake Watson
Karri Keller	

Alx Stevens, Kuna-Melba News

1. Confidentiality Agreement -

Mayor Stear explained the necessity for having a confidentiality agreement signed by all committee members. Richard Roats, City Attorney for City of Kuna further described the agreement and asked that each committee member either sign it today, or sign it and have it returned prior to the next committee meeting.

2. Update from Robin Collins, City Economic Development Coordinator

Robin Collins began her update by explaining what all economic development encompasses. She stated that economic development is broad based and long term, and is not just about attracting new businesses and creating new jobs. It is about increasing the capacity of a community to identify and use resources for long-term growth. Taking care of existing businesses is a number one priority, but it is also about workforce and identifying skills gaps. Economic development includes a vibrant active downtown, having a healthy community by providing walking paths, pedestrian connectivity and parks. It's about the people, making jobs better, capturing more local dollars, community development, tourism, education, and overall quality of life...which now is referred to as quality of place. To have a successful economic development program, there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes that people don't see, there is a lot of data and research, a lot of analysis, and sometimes it can take years working to attract a company to your community and it doesn't happen.

Robin Collins went on to explain that in the 3 weeks that she has been with the City, she has

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been performing a lot of that behind the scenes work by collecting data. Some of the data collected is demographics, large employer data, current industry snapshot and historical industry snapshot, which is the total change over the last five years in Kuna, labor force data, occupation data, which tells us what industry a person works in based on where they live, inflow and outflow data, which tells us how many people commute out of the city each day for work and how many people from other communities commute into our city for work each day, climate data, and comparison data. She explained that the inflow and outflow data show that over 90% of people who live in Kuna commute out of Kuna each day for work. By utilizing the occupation data, it helps us to know what type of industry they are working in. This helps us determine the specific industry type needed to help get our current residents employed within our own community. Robin expressed that what was really intriguing was the comparison data. In the comparison data, Kuna was compared against seven other communities in the treasure valley, along with three out-of-state competitive cities. Kuna outranked all of them with the most owner-occupied homes. Over 80% of the residents in Kuna own their homes...that is huge. She explained how this shows that there is a desire for long term commitment to living in Kuna and that the cost of housing is reasonable enough for people to purchase their home. She further updated the board on the completion of a Business Retention and Expansion Program plan that is complete and will be brought to the board next month. Property databases have also been created to track all available commercial and industrial property along with the acres, zoning and price, and a database to track all of the land that may have a potential for negotiations with land owners. This would be used to contact the owners to initiate conversations on the desire to have their properties included as a potential site if the right project comes along. The next item that has been completed is an initial basic marketing brochure to give to potential prospects and to those looking to expand or just want general knowledge. The brochure will be available at the next meeting. The goal is that once we have determined our target industries, that there would be a custom brochure created for each industry type that contains the data that they will need specific to that industry and eventually have all of this information on the website so that people can also download the brochures. Robin stated that she has performed a lot of outreach in the past weeks to various agencies, organizations and private parties as well to establish relationships and to extend an invitation and interest in participating in various activities that support the economic development efforts. Robin concluded by saying that she has also been working on the review of internal documents and programs to become familiar with the processes and the information contained within and has a whole outline of tasks that she will be completing and moving forward with as time goes on. She welcomed any questions or input from the committee.

3. Executive Session –

Wendy Howell stated that we did not need executive session today but that on future agendas it would need to cite the state statute that is applicable for executive session during these meetings.

Updates by Committee Members

Karri Keller of the Chamber stated she is excited to work together with the Economic Development Coordinator and with the City.

Mayor Stear commented that Idaho is the fastest growing in the nation.

Blake Watson of Idaho Power asked if we knew how many businesses came into Kuna in 2017. Wendy Howell, Planning Director said that data has not been ran yet for 2017.

Blake Watson updated everyone about the economic development grants offered through Idaho Power.

Mayor Stear asked is Idaho Power's growth plans have been accelerated or shifted? Blake Watson stated that they haven't and that it is pretty much going on as planned.

Dave Gronbeck reported that real estate is going good and that he has nothing new to report.

Kara Medrano said banking is good, loans have picked up and that they provide SBA loans.

Karri reported that the Chamber has a new mission and has some new members. They are going to start holding their meetings at the Kuna Event Center, starting with the January meeting.

Wendy Howell asked Alx Stevens if she had any updates or anything she wanted to report on. Alx stated that she is attending just to listen.

Mayor Stear asked if there were any further updates or discussion. Seeing none the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2018 @ 12:00 p.m.