

imagine **Columbia's** future!

Economic Development
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2007
West Junior High School
401 Clinkscales Road
Columbia Missouri

Co-Facilitator: Al Price
Support Staff: Joyce Gelina

INTRODUCTIONS

Facilitator Al Price introduced himself and welcomed the group. The following attended and introduced themselves: Bernie Andrews, Shawn Barnes, Andrew Beverley, DeAnna Bokinsky, Margrace Buckler, George Carney, Karl Christopher, Larry Colgin, Isaac Cox, Scott Cristal, Ron DeLaite, Steve Erdel, Mark Farnen, Joyce Gelina, Michael Grellner, Byron Hill, Genny Jacks, Paul Klick, Mike Lynch, Richard Maseles, Gregg Martin, Marty McCormick, Jeanne McGuire, Yulia Medvedeva, David Meyer, Mindy Mulkey, Mike Naughton, Darin Preis, Marty Siddall, Andy Stewart, Charles Tutt and Jerry Wade

REVIEW IDEAS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Proposed sub-topics were posted. They are: Airport, Economic Development, Jobs and Job Training, and Science and Technology. Handouts listing the community's ideas regarding future economic development were distributed. The group was asked to review the list individually and decide whether the sub-topics that were identified need to be changed in any way.

FINALIZE SUB-TOPICS

Following discussion, the proposed sub-topics were approved with a show of hands.

FORM SUB-TOPIC GROUPS

In order to identify emerging themes and summary statements, topic group members divided into work groups based on their interest in the sub-topic. One person in each group volunteered to document the discussion.

IDENTIFY THEMES BY SUB-TOPIC

Possible themes and ideas for summary statements** were recorded. The following information was extracted from the Theme and Summary Statement Worksheets.

Airport

- Connectivity, time and cost
- Better hubs must be utilized
- Attract choice airlines through pre-paid tickets from organizations with relatively large travel budgets.
- Emphasize "Regional" capacity of airport.
- Facility operates at below breakeven. Loss should be minimized, even if operations need to be reduced; but preferably more revenue can be attracted through improved service.

**In the future it will be possible to fly out of Columbia and save time, money and be efficient.

Economic Development

- Attraction, retention and growth/start up of businesses
- Small versus large; existing versus new; external versus internal
- Establishing a business friendly climate
- Forming regional/economic partnerships
- Identifying the kinds of jobs we want to attract
- Retail sector
- Farmer's market
- Local ownership of business/home office and reciprocal business relationship
- Economic incentives, tourism and cultural element

Jobs and Job Training

- Pay issues and living wage
- Type of work—Service, Labor, Technical and Manufacturing
- Increase the number of jobs
- Targeted training
- Benefits

**In the future, Columbia will have an employment base that is trained and qualified to work in a variety of industries. Employers will provide “decent” wages with benefits that provide opportunities for professional development, further education, good health and quality of life.

Science and Technology

**Leverage and communicate our existing and emerging technological/scientific assets.

IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL TOPIC GROUP MEMBERS

Sub-topic group members discussed potential new members and volunteered to invite them to the next meeting. Recommended to become a member of the Economic Development Citizen Topic Group are: Kathy Frerking, B. J. Hunter, Tom Kayser and adults currently enrolled in a retraining program. They will be contacted by Mike Naughton, George Carney, Byron Hill and Karl Christopher respectively.

CO-FACILITATOR NOMINATIONS

Those interested in the role of co-facilitator were encouraged to submit the application card included in their packet.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

Those volunteering to contact potential additional members were asked to invite them as soon as possible to our next meeting. The February meeting will be the last opportunity for new members to join.

Those interested in becoming a candidate for co-facilitator were reminded to turn in the application card, attend the training on February 20 and prepare a brief two-minute statement.

OTHER

Those attending were asked to complete and turn in the exit survey before leaving.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be February 21, 6 p.m. at West Junior High School, 401 Clinkscales Road.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.