Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Greene County Redevelopment Commission February 20, 2020

The regular meeting of the Greene County Redevelopment Commission was held in the Commissioners' Room of the Greene County Courthouse on February 20, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Present were John Mensch, Gregg Roudebush, Scott Carmichael and newly appointed members Lori Speer and Chris Cornelius. Brian Sparks attended electronically in compliance with IC 36-7-14-3.1 and IC 36-7-14.5-9.5. Also present were the Commission attorney Marvin Abshire, Commissioners Rick Graves and Ed Michael.

The meeting was opened by a pledge to the flag. The meeting was called to order by John Mensch.

The first item of business was review and approval of the minutes of the January 16, 2020 regular meeting. After review, a motion was made by Gregg Roudebush and seconded by Brian Sparks to waive the reading and approve the minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved with three votes. Lori Speer and Chris Cornelius abstained.

The next item of business was an update from John Mensch on WestGate @ Crane Tech Park. Senate Bill 264 to increase funding for 23 tech parks in the state passed the senate to the house with a 43-6 vote. Senator Eric Bassler voted against the Bill even though WestGate is inside his district. John Mensch sent correspondence to Eric Bassler and asked him why he voted against the Bill, but Senator Bassler has not responded.

John Mensch reported that he went to Mid-State Corridor public meeting at Loogootee High School which drew a large crowd. Engineers from Lochmueller Group spoke, but no public comments were allowed. As President of WestGate, John Mensch believes "Route P" on U.S. 231 would benefit WestGate and Crane. John Mensch distributed a Mid-State Corridor questionnaire to the Commission for input. John Mensch reported that he met Jan Schuler-Hicks. She is Senator Mike Braun's representative in this area. Senator Braun is on the senate transportation committee.

John Mensch encouraged the Commission to reach out to Senator Braun with their support of "Route P".

John Mensch further reported that on March 10th he will meet with the Federal Economic Development Administration out of Chicago and request more money to enlarge the WestGate Academy building or to build a second structure next to the existing Academy building.

John Mensch also reported that Man-Tech specializes in cyber work and is consolidating their operations at WestGate. Ground-breaking is anticipated on April 17th for a Martin County site.

Work on the Master Plan continues despite no money to implement, with a focal point around the Academy building for future growth. Economic Development Director Brianne Jerrels is setting up a housing committee. John Mensch thinks it is important for the economic growth of Greene County. John Mensch presented an idea to Kyle Werner and Mark Dobbs of Crane base suggesting that the State of Indiana take over the one mile stretch of County Road 800S owned by the county and make it the main entrance into the Tech Park. This stretch of road is east from U.S. 231 to Greene County Road 200E/Daviess County Road 1400E. The three roads meet just south of Scotland village where Greene, Daviess and Martin counties meet. Both Kyle Werner and Mark Dobbs believe it is a good idea.

John Mensch reported that it appears that there is increased activity at the Battery Innovation Center, Inc. "BIC" building. Gregg Roudebush wondered if BIC would provide the Commission with a report on their finances. Marvin Abshire believes BIC President and CEO Ben Wrightsman would be willing to provide limited information and present a Power Point. The Commission requested Marvin Abshire contact Ben Wrightsman to present at the April meeting.

The next item of business was the mowing contract presented by Marvin Abshire. During the January 16, 2020 meeting, the Commission approved the two proposals for mowing and brush hogging dated January 10, 2020 submitted by Big Bear Ridge, LLC, Randy Baker, member. After review, a motion was made by Brian Sparks and seconded by Lori Speer to approve the mowing contract as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion approved unanimously.

Marvin Abshire presented the Commission with Resolution No. 2020-01, "Greene County Redevelopment Commission Resolution Authorizing President and Secretary to Execute Blighted Property Sale Documents". Marvin Abshire explained that the Greene County Commissioners have facilitated most sales of parcels. At times there has been significant delay between a prospective purchaser's execution of a sale agreement and the next available regularly scheduled Commission meeting. It is the County's best interest to expeditiously secure purchase agreements and closings on said property parcels and to recover funds for use in further local blight elimination efforts. The Resolution will grant authority to the President and Secretary of the Commission to enter into purchase agreements and execute sale documents without approval during open and regularly scheduled meetings. The Resolution does call for a report of any sales at the next regular meeting. A motion was made by Gregg Roudebush and seconded by Chris Cornelius to approve Resolution No. 2020-01 as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Marvin Abshire presented Oaths for signatures to the Commission members.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Gregg Roudebush and seconded by Lori Speer to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED this 21st day of May, 2020.

Gregg Roudebush, Secretary