



2020 Willow Run, Suite 100 | Enid, OK 73703
P: 580 233 4232 | F: 580 242 5603
www.growenid.com

ERDA Board of Directors Meeting
September 9, 2021
Minutes

ATTENDEES: Sandra Robinett, Martie Oyler, Kyle Williams, Don Roberts, Brian Henson, Dave Lamerton, Rob Stallings, Jason Turnbow, Jon Blankenship, Scott Athey, Dwight Hughes

ABSENT: Jerald Gilbert, George Pankonin, Jerry Allen, Matt Parrish

GUESTS PRESENT: Taylor Blasier, Alex Ewald

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Powell, Debbie Moore

CALL TO ORDER: Sandra Robinett called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes of August 12, 2021 meeting by Don Roberts, second by Martie Oyler was approved unanimously.

FINANCIALS: Scott Athey reviewed the financial reports with the board. Review only, no vote.

LGE EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER: Taylor Blasier with LGE will be an ex-officio member of our board during this class session. Taylor was asked to introduce herself to the board and shared her desire to learn more about the community she loves and wishes to serve in.

SMALL BUSINESS RENOVATION GRANT: Enid Axe's application for a small business renovation grant was reviewed by the board. Lisa explained the grant process as a reimbursable grant and the parameters involved. Motion to approve a grant to Enid Axe for up to \$5,000 by Rob Stallings was seconded by Kyle Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

JIF REPRESENTATIVE: The Joint Investment Foundation has recently dissolved and Martie Oyler serves on the ERDA board as the JIF representative as outlined in our Bylaws. It was suggested we change the position on the board from a JIF representative to a Business Member Representative. Making this change would require an amendment to the current Bylaws. We would not be adding a person to the board by making this change, only the description of this particular position on the board. Motion by Rob Stallings to immediately allow Martie Oyler to remain on the board as a Business Member Representative finishing out her current term and additionally to amend the Bylaws as required. Motion was seconded by Kyle Williams and passed unanimously.

HOUSING STUDY: The last housing study ERDA had done was in 2015 and cost approximately \$30,000. That study was for Garfield County and not just Enid. The board was asked if they have a desire for a new housing study to be performed. Rob Stallings expressed concern about the east side of Enid being a blighted area. Lisa said she could talk to the research company about this and see what type of information they could provide for a possible redevelopment plan. Kyle Williams voiced concern about starter homes vs. rental rates and the need for lower priced homes for first time home buyers. A



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suggestion was also made to check with Mike Cooper regarding Vance Air Force Base to make certain the report encompasses anything they have interest in or need data on. Lisa will get quotes from 2 firms and report back to the board. No motion needed.

SHORT TERM DISABILITY FOR STAFF: When the policy and procedure handbook was changed, PTO carry over time was diminished to only 40 hours to be carried over at the end of the fiscal year. Staff requested this be looked at again as it could be an issue if a catastrophic illness took place. Short term disability and life insurance package was investigated. Due to the limited number of employees at ERDA, a \$15,000 life insurance with short-term disability was suggested by the insurance agent. The premium cost was approximately \$1,000/year to have short term disability at 60% of income and the life insurance policy. The short-term disability policy would pay out up to \$1,500 per week for a maximum benefit up to 25 weeks. The premiums would be paid by ERDA. Motion to approve purchasing of these insurance policies was made by Dave Lamerton with second by Don Roberts. Motion passed unanimously.

WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT: Lisa reminded the board \$75,000 was allocated for workforce recruitment. Lisa explained that Enid does not have one public online job board for job seekers to find jobs. There are sites on the internet or various entities such as the Chamber and Autry, but there is not one comprehensive list for jobs in Enid. ERDA will go live with their job board on October 15, 2021 which will be provided to ERDA business members, Chamber of Commerce members and Enid Main Street members free of charge. Other businesses will have a nominal fee per job to be placed on the job board. We will be able to use the new job board URL and advertise out of state as well with marketing efforts from shore to shore.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: Good news, sales tax revenue for July was up 2.54%.

THE CONNECT: On Aug. 5, 2021 The Connect event took place in the Barrel Room at Enid Brewing Company. An assortment of people in the community were invited to attend. They were business owners, entrepreneurs, movers, shakers, and out of the box thinkers. The Connect event was birthed from meetings we have had with people and found out they don't know some of the key people in the community that could be a resource for them or they in turn could be a resource for. Linking these people up could make the next big thing happen in their business or in our community. We will have the second event on October 28th by invitation only. Those that attended the first event were asked to add 2 people to our invite list they think would be beneficial to attend. We expect this purposeful networking event to grow and be valuable to all attendees.

EYP 10 UNDER 40: The Annual banquet held recently was a great success with a large crowd. Secretary Blayne Arthur was an excellent keynote speaker

HOPE SUMMITT: On October 7th in Enid the Hope Summit will be a daylong event spearheaded by First Lady Sarah Stitt. Enid Public Schools has been working on a Hope Initiative in the schools. Survey went out to determine how hopeful Enid is and results will be discussed in detail at the Summit. Lisa Powell will be attending the event.



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NBAA: Lisa Powell will be attending the National Business Aviation Association Convention October 12-15 in Las Vegas, NV. ERDA is focused on aviation business recruitment to support the Industrial Park at Woodring Airport.

QUARTERLY LUNCHEON: ERDA's next quarterly luncheon will be held October 21st and the guest speaker will be from the Small Business Association talking about a vital topic for everyone, cybersecurity, especially in businesses today.

TEENY TINY TOWN SUMMIT: Northwest Oklahoma Alliance is hosting this event on October 26th designed to provide resources and education for small towns in northwest Oklahoma. Connecting these small towns with opportunities they may not be aware of. We want to keep our small towns as strong as they possibly can be.

APPOINTMENT: Lisa Powell was appointed by the Governor to the FAPC Industry Advisory Committee which is quite an honor and will be a great opportunity to serve.

THE ONE: Planning for The One continues. ERDA is working with The Chamber, Main Street and others to make certain Enid is ready for a large turnout though the holiday season. Lisa is coordinating with Enid Brewing Company to use the undeveloped upstairs of the brewery as temporary office space for her and a hospitality suite for special guests. ERDA has rented the Barrell Room the evening of opening night for a VIP reception focused on out-of-town people and Enid VIPs. The Wednesday following Enid Lights Up the Plains will be another opportunity for a VIP gathering for those that cannot attend the first event. Lisa asked the board to share with staff any vendors or VIPs they want to bring to Enid at that time so we can invite them to one of the two receptions.

UPDATE: Lisa informed the board that Trent Misak was working remotely due to complications with his wife's pregnancy. They are staying at Integris in OKC until the baby is delivered and all is going well at this time.

ADJOURN: With no further business to come before the board, Sandra Robinett called the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Moore, Staff

Sandra Robinett, Chair