

Summary / Steering Committee Meeting #6

LaGrange County Economic Development Plan

LaGrange County REMC, 1995 E US 20, LaGrange IN • Tuesday, July 26, 2011 • 9:00 A.M.

Attendees

Steering Committee Members:

- Keith Gillenwater, LaGrange County EDC
- Risa Herber, Lakeland School Corp.
- Mark Leu, LaGrange County REMC
- Rob Myers, Parkview Hospital
- Beth Shermin, LaGrange County Chamber of Commerce

Consultants: Brian O’Neill (SDG), Catie Kosinski (SDG)

Discuss Comments from Public Meeting #2

Brian and Keith explained that no comments were made at the public meeting that would cause the steering committee to revise the plan. Disagreements with the plan at the meeting were made in relation to the revitalization of the Town of LaGrange as opposed to Howe. Other disagreements were expressed concerning the development of a 400-500 acre greenfield site near the I-80/90 interchange.

Steering committee members noted that there were several new faces at the public meeting held the previous night and a positive story in the local newspaper about the plan.

Although taken under advisement, the steering committee decided to consider the comments from the public meeting not “actionable” with regard to the plan document.

Goals

Steering committee members reviewed the draft goals and suggested text revisions which are noted below.

- Provide opportunities for increased prosperity throughout LaGrange County by attracting ~~and expanding~~ higher wage employers.
- Assist, support, and advocate for the retention and expansion of existing employers.

- Create a higher quality of life by promoting and supporting educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities.
- Establish LaGrange County as a business friendly and welcoming community regionally and nationally.
- Ensure that LaGrange County is a safe and healthy community through a substantial tax base anchored by quality basic employers.
- Cultivate and work ~~through with strategic partners~~ partnerships within LaGrange County and regionally.

Board Management of Strategic Plan

Brian reviewed best practices regarding board management of the economic development plan. He said that the plan is a management tool to guide the EDC's activities for the next few years. An annual review of the plan goals and objectives was recommended. Tactical activities related to the functioning of the EDC should be the subject of monthly or special board meetings. Goals are not written in stone and can be revised on an annual basis. Brian recommended that the EDC provides an orientation on the economic development plan to new board members.

Public Hearing of Record

The public hearing of record for the plan is scheduled for Monday, August 15, 2011 at 9:00 A.M. at the county commissioner's meeting. There will be 15 minutes for comment on the plan. Keith invited steering committee members and EDC board members to attend the meeting and express their support of the plan.