

Attendants: Jim Miller, Lonn Atwood, Joe Ferguson, Darrel Novacek, RJ Baker, Sue Fuchtman, Tom Higginbotham, Mark Hall, Tom Schommer, Michael Brogan, Paula Pflueger, Dan Mauk, John Stappert, Clark Froehlich, Webb McNally, Les Mann & Holly Sisson.

Miller called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The Norfolk Youth Leadership Council sent a couple of youths to become part of our board. Steve Sunderman, Stephanie Mead and Drew Oswald were the representatives today. They will send two members to the meetings. Miller asked the group to review the minutes and they were approved as read.

Miller asked the group if Tuesday at Noon worked for everyone and there were no objections. What about moving the location? HyVee has a meeting room that Atwood has already talked to about. They are on the river and we will eventually be asking them for money, so we should give them our support. Everyone gave Novacek a round of applause. He has raised \$54,075 including the \$25,000 from the NRD. The funding committee had a meeting on Monday, March 31 and decided that the group needs to come up with an additional \$250,000. The funds will be distributed as such: \$150,000 master study, advertising/marketing, printing/postage, legal fees salaries/rent. Then Mauk, Ferguson, Higginbotham and Novacek met that afternoon to code the businesses with a dollar amount. They went from 450 potential businesses to 106 and need 20 people to solicit five businesses. This doesn't include service clubs or the city but it does include one major business. Novacek also mentioned that Jan Einspahr at the Norfolk Arts Center is willing to host our Meet & Greet for free, as long as we follow the alcohol rules and help with cleanup.

The Meet & Greet is going to be an opportunity to have the selected company come and introduce themselves. This is a way that we can bring everyone together. The Meet & Greet is going to be held at a later date. We need to invite the youth to be involved in this process and make sure they know of ways they can contribute to this project as well instead of financially. There was a suggestion about having a presentation made to a group of students. Atwood volunteered and the students said they would arrange this. The committee is going to wait until we have a commitment from the firm, this is to introduce them and recognize everyone involved. There could be a report of the progress made on the donations also.

Higginbotham talked about the interview process and how they presented a two hour presentation to him, Schommer, Atwood and Fuchtman. The group selected HDR out of Omaha and would like to move into negotiations. All of them were very good choices and would have done a fantastic job. If negotiations don't work out, then they'll move to their second choice. A letter is going to be sent to the firms telling them they will keep them in mind for future projects. The firm has been involved in several out of state Riverwalk projects and is involved in the Omaha baseball park. HDR has an international presence and delivered an outstanding presentation to the group. Putting together this plan will take about 6-9 months. All of them say that Norfolk has an asset that others would "kill" for. One incredible quality is that this city can regulate the water flow within inches. Atwood made a motion to pursue the negotiations of HDR and Fuchtman second. All agreed and motion carried.

Atwood and Amundson have put together a brochure and Affiliated Foods is going to do the printing as an in-kind trade. There are a couple of changes that need to be made before the final printing. Atwood and Miller made a presentation to the EVEDC board and were successful in asking for \$5000. Staff is going to call Higginbotham and the USDA to set up an appointment to get the proposal wrote up for the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI).

A few comments were made about how great it is to have the youth involved. Atwood has ordered a couple cases of potato chips to see if we can use them as a fundraiser. The website was brought up and we need to decide on a logo. There was a suggestion made about getting the community involved and creating a logo and using that as our final and only logo. This is a fun way to get others involved. Love Signs is also contributing a digital banner.

Miller adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by Holly Sisson.