

**Columbia City Redevelopment Commission Minutes
April 9, 2013**

The Columbia City Redevelopment Commission met in regular session with the following

members present: Secretary Commissioner Patricia Hatcher
Vice President Commissioner Kevin Snell
Commissioner Ben Romine

Those absent: President Commissioner Carl Siler
Commissioner Lindsey Hively

Also in attendance: Mayor Ryan L. Daniel
Attorney Greg Hockemeyer
Ex-officio Member Stan Meyer
Economic Development Director Jeff Walker
Mayor's Administrative Assistant Martha Acres
Alan Tio, WCEDC President
Lori Shipman, WCEDC

Vice President Commissioner Snell asked the Commission if they had time to review the minutes of the previous meeting for acceptance.

Commissioner Lindsey Hively is now present.

On the motion of Commissioner Hively and second of Secretary Commissioner Hatcher, to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2013 meeting, all voted aye, except for Commissioner Romine who abstained.

Attorney Greg Hockemeyer informed the Commission he has written letters to Bingham Greenebaum Doll, Barnes & Thornburg and Ice Miller for the purpose of determining the appropriateness of outside counsel and costs involved in reference to TIF matters. He has not compiled the report from these law firms as of yet but should have this for presentation at the next regular scheduled meeting. Vice President Commissioner Snell informed the Commission he has spoken with different individuals who would be willing to come to the Redevelopment Commission and discuss the information on TIF formation/creation, TIF financing and to explain the Commission's resources and how to utilize them. He would like for these individuals to be at the next regular scheduled meeting for the presentation.

Alan Tio, President of the WCEDC, presented an overview of the Redevelopment Commission's extended abilities and how this can be distributed on the website.

Alan Tio informed the Commission his office has been working on **flexible shared office space** in the downtown area. He would like the Commission's support on **creating the EDC Outpost**, a

co-working space located at the corner of W. VanBuren & N. Chauncey Streets. Their vision is to encourage entrepreneurs, startups, professionals and road warriors to grow roots in Whitley County. This shared space would provide twelve co-working seats, partitioned meeting area with conference room table that seats four people, free WIFI throughout, coffee maker, microwave, refrigerator, printer (wireless), projector, whiteboard and keyed access for members only. There are available 24 memberships at \$40 per month each. All handling of this space is conducted by the WCEDC. Mr. Tio is asking for a commitment from the Redevelopment Commission to help support this endeavor. Secretary Commissioner Hatcher questioned when the funding would start and how many people would be coming in through his contacts. Mr. Tio thought funding should start this summer and he believes at this time he can get ten individuals. Commissioner Romine questioned the Mayor if there was anything the City could help with as far as the utilities. The Mayor will check into it. After some discussion, Commissioner Romine made a motion to help the EDC Outpost at \$200 per month after five individuals have been secured for one year. Secretary Commissioner Hatcher asked if the \$200 is not needed, does the Redevelopment Commission still need to pay. Mr. Tio stated this is a collaboration and it could be set aside in an account for the next time. Mayor Daniel questioned if the Redevelopment Commission is offsetting the largest costs. Attorney Hockemeyer stated their firm didn't want to lose any money. The WCEDC will be monitoring the Outpost. Secretary Commissioner Hatcher seconds the motion. On call of the vote, all voted aye to support the EDC Outpost beginning when there are five individuals in the amount of up to \$200 for one year and then re-visit the situation before any further funding from the Redevelopment Commission. If the level is lower, then the support is less.

Commissioner Romine informed the Commission the Farmers Market requested blue signage along US 30. Jeff Walker informed the Commission this is the State Highways' right of way and they need their permission. Commissioner Romine will inform the Farmers Market.

Mayor Daniel is requesting the Redevelopment Commission investigate the possibility of purchasing benches, way-finding signs, bicycle locks and planters for the downtown area. The Commission discussed possibly touring other communities to see what they have accomplished. Mayor Daniel will contact Mr. Tio and see what interest he would have in bringing this together.

As all business was discussed, the meeting adjourned.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Martha Acres, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor.