

Gate City Development Association Meeting January 17, 2008

The Gate City Development Association Board of Directors met on January 17, 2008 at the Fire Hall Meeting Room. Present were: Lynda Rol, Angel Oeltjenbruns, Roger Baer, Will Stone, Mary Nosbush. Absent were: Joe Kolbach, Harvey Nelson. Also present were: Randy Keimig, Shirley Denekamp, Jason Steele and Jim Beddow.

Lynda called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Mary read the minutes of the December 20 annual meeting. Will questioned whether memberships were to be as individuals or couples. One membership gets one vote. Motion Will, second Angel to approve minutes as read. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Angel distributed financial reports including a Profit/Loss statement and a Balance Sheet. Motion Mary, second Will to accept the financial reports as presented.

Jim Beddow of the Rural Learning Center reported about his findings as they have interviewed about 90 plus people in Deuel County. He said a regional effort will be needed for some aspects of development work, but this will not replace local groups. Their mission involves business development, housing and place.

Deuel County is unique for several reasons. We have a robust job market with 12 businesses employing 40-180 people each. Three of those are located in Gary. Housing in South Dakota has an average age of 51 years. We are no different. New and improved housing is one of the most important parts of economic development. Beddow said the most successful housing projects in rural communities have been where the City partners with private developers to develop infrastructure. (water, sewer, streets) "Place" is about quality of life. It's what brings people here and keeps them here, including: schools, healthcare, recreation, culture and so on.

Statistics on the Deuel County workforce indicate that about 750 people leave the county to work every day. They go to Watertown (300), Brookings (250), Yellow Medicine County (100) and others. And about 300 come into the county to work. They want to do a workforce survey to determine the need for housing.

At 8 p.m. the board met in closed session to discuss the status of loans and the confidentiality policy. The Association is licensed by the State of South Dakota as a lender and therefore is required to abide by the same laws as a bank regarding loan confidentiality. At 8:23 p.m. the open meeting resumed. Angel will prepare a 1098 IRS form for each loan holder.

Angel and Mary presented preliminary information on their housing committee report, including locations of lots already platted, suitable for housing development. More to come next month.

The Board discussed a possible fund raiser for this spring to generate funds for a welcome sign at City limits.

Mary volunteered to contact the state highway engineer about what wording is allowable on the sign at the 3-mile corner.

Motion by Mary, seconded by Roger to appoint Angel Oeltjenbruns as the official agent of the association, to be registered with the SD Secretary of State. All voting yes and the motion carried.

Ideas were discussed for a logo and motto. Everyone is to bring ideas to the February meeting.

Angel presented information about the Horizons Program. It is a private grant program with the purpose of developing leadership in small towns. It is funded by a railroad endowment as a way to give back to rural communities that made the railroads strong in the past. We are working on developing a list of area people to try to get 5 who would represent our community at the training. Once the training is completed, grant funds can be approved for projects that will benefit the community.

Angel is reviewing old records of the Association to prepare a list of members who will be notified of the next annual meeting.

Lynda brought up the idea of changing the monthly meeting date to the first Thursday of the month. However, it was decided by the majority to stick with the third Thursday at the Fire Hall for our meetings. Roger agreed to arrange for the building.

Lynda presented a plaque to Randy Keimig for his year of service to the Association. Not present to receive their plaques were: Diane Melby, Jack Wier, Gene Lorenzen and Albert Bekaert. We hope to present the plaques at the February meeting and get a photo. Next meeting will be held Thursday, February 21, 7 p.m. Motion Roger, 2nd Will to adjourn.

Mary Nosbush
Secretary