

Envision Elgin Thursday September 20, 2017

Called- Called to order at 7:40 am by Forest Dennis at ACC Campus Elgin.

Attending- Bunnie Stark, Chris Bratton, Beth Rollingson, Sue Beckwith, Donna Snowden, Bruce Wentworth, Owen Rock, Ed Rivers, Patsy Hoffman, Meredith Williams, Betsy Erwin, Jodi Duron, Forest Dennis and Amy Miller.

Approval of minutes- Ed Rivers moves to approve May 17th minutes. Second by Chris Bratton, passed unanimously.

Public Comment- None

Presentation by Evelyn Rosas- Sustainable Agriculture Specialist, continuing Ed program. Level 1 certificate approved by Board of Education. 400 hours of instruction Entrepreneurial Agricultural. Also creating occupational skills awards that take 120 hours. 1 Semester versus 3 semesters. There are very few programs like this nationwide and none in the south. This is in high demand and cutting edge, including classes related to added value food production. Coordinates with Elgin Sustainable Ag effort economic development efforts with the City and Farm to School with EISD. The ACC program is growing crops and will be adding cattle. 15 acres of campus is an active farm. All classes require hands on farm work, livestock barn, wood working and welding shops. Small kitchen that can be certified but is more of a cottage kitchen. Shared biology lab with vet tech. The new building and barn are slated to be open in spring 2018. This is part of the Blackland Prairie which is the most important valuable resource of land in Texas.

ACC Campus- Betsy reported up to 36% since fall enrollment, up about 50/50 early college start and traditional. Construction on schedule for January 2018.

Bastrop County update- Commissioner Snowden in McDade with road paving today.

Education- Dr. Duron reported – 5 years ago no dual credit classes. This is our 4th year and have 20-30 who will earn their associates degree with their High School diploma. This is a free program. EISD offers a Robust Advance placement classes. Academic calendar new this year- started early in August. Enrollment of 4350. Elgin Elementary built a ten-classroom modular building. Next phase to address growth. Homecoming October 6th, pep rally and parade Wednesday, October 4th.

EDC and future development: Owen Rock reported new retail announced near Walmart has fallen through largely due to increase construction costs. Costs are up 35% since Hurricane Harvey. Lee Didly Blvd. under construction. 400 homes to be under construction. Continuing to work on developing a commercial kitchen in downtown Elgin Local Food Ctr. Business park now full- Elgin Sprinkler finishing construction and Friendly's Automotive will be under construction.

Community Projects and Sustainable Growth- Amy reported on Recreation Center, Flea Market, Sidewalks on FM 1100, Community Clean-up Day, Potluck book club, Parks & Rec. events, Hogeye Festival events and Street Dance, Downtown businesses- Margo Sawyers building, New businesses- Boutique barber, 12 Star Massage, LML Appliance expansion. Coming soon-109 N Main, 14 N Main and possible apartments on Maple Lane. TDA awards and sidewalks.

Promotion and Tourism: Amy reported for Gena on promotion and tourism. November 25th Shop Small Saturday, December 1- Holiday Concert, December 2- Hot Cocoa Stroll and December 16th Art of giving, Rockport Chamber Elgin Bowl; paint a bowl, LaGrange Main Street Board is volunteering to help with Oktoberfest, TML, State Fair.

Preservation- Donna Snowden reported more stories from Elgin. Book signing/presentation October 16th at First Presbyterian. Fundraiser. EHA runs the Depot museum for the community. See weekly articles in the Elgin Courier by Charlene Hanson Jordan; wonderful articles sharing Elgin's history. Christmas party in December. New high school volunteer Abigail Fritz is providing great support and involvement. Sue Beckwith announced that the Mary Christianson Burleson House construction starts this fall- beginning initial stabilization.

Announcements- Chris Bratton announced National Night Out Tuesday, October 3.

Next meeting-November 15, 2017

Adjourned at 8:50 am

Approved:

Attest:
