

Edinburgh Redevelopment Authority
Joint Meeting with Edinburgh Redevelopment Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2013

John Drybread, President of the Authority, called the meeting to order and called the membership roll.

Members Present:

John Drybread
Becky Wilhelm
Kelli Clawson

Other Attendees:

Town Attorney, Dustin Huddleston
Wayne Gibbs, Timbergate Golf Course Manager
Ted Lucas, Commission President
John Rondot, Commission Secretary
Karen Fitzpatrick, Commission Member

John Drybread presented the January 14, 2013 meeting minutes for approval. Becky Wilhelm made a motion to approve the minutes, Kelli Clawson seconded. Unanimous.

The meeting was a joint meeting with the Redevelopment Commission, therefore, the following section of minutes were taken from the Redevelopment Commission minutes:

[Second Order of business – Edinburgh Merchants Association Meeting Discussion

Ted Lucas stated that on March 7, 2013, he, John Drybread and John Rondot had met with the owners of Step Back in Time and All Dressed Up Tea Room who were representing the Merchants Association. The Merchants Association is looking for ways to enhance the 'downtown' experience in Edinburgh and is interested in how the Redevelopment Commission could assist in the effort.

John Rondot reviewed his notes from the meeting and stated that some of the major areas of concern included:

- Signage directing travelers to the downtown area. The Commission feels that coordination with Strand Associates could help address this problem,
- Parking Problems – a suggestion that the old 'Arch' be re-opened to allow for easier use of the parking lot North of the buildings on the North side of Main Cross. John Drybread said that he was not sure who owned that property, but would check into it.
- Merchants Association believes that the primary cause of business failures in downtown is under-funding of the businesses. Ted Lucas reported that during the meeting on March 7 the Merchants Association received a telephone call reporting that The Pepper Mill, a restaurant, would be closing.
- Soldiers at Camp Atterbury being told not to frequent Edinburgh. John Drybread said that this may be going back to World War II and the Korean War and he doubts that this is still prevalent.
- There appears to be no long-term plan for downtown.
- The Merchants are very pleased with the Facade Program.
- The Merchants overwhelmingly agree that Edinburgh should continue with the Flower Program. Comments from visitors are always positive.
- The Merchants feel slighted by Timbergate and want a closer working relationship.
- The Merchants Association would like to see some new promotional brochures prepared and placed at Timbergate, Exit 76 Antique Mall, local hotels/motels, and Premium Outlets.
- The Merchants wondered if there are grants available to assist in the promotion of downtown.
- Discussed the possibility of a "Chamber of Commerce" type of organization. The Merchants said that did not work well in the past. They wondered if the Library, as a hub in the community, could take on some of that work.
- The Merchants feel that the businesses in the Edinburgh Industrial Park have little to do with the downtown and wondered how to get those businesses more involved.

Discussion: Ted Lucas said that there is very little to attract travelers to downtown

The Commission will help the Merchants look for possible grants.

- Conover Foundation
- OCRA Grants
- Historical District grants

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Wayne Gibbs stated that he has had no contact with the Merchants about Timbergate promoting the downtown. He is willing to work with the Merchants.

John Rondot asked whether any tourism money was available from Johnson County. John Drybread responded that none was available.

Suggestion was made to put promotional information at the Ball Fields, at local hotels/motels, and the Columbus Visitors Center. Karen Fitzpatrick mentioned that some promotional material is currently available at the hotels near the Outlet Mall.

Suggestion was made to make more use of the Town Webpage, but John Drybread reminded the Commission that these are private businesses.

John Drybread mentioned that The Dairy Queen on Eisenhower Drive, a long-time business in Edinburgh, has closed.

Ted Lucas said that the Commission will continue to interact with the Merchants Association. He said that the Commission should also meet with the Library Board to discuss possible working relationships with the Merchants.

Third Order of Business – Strand Associates

John Rondot reported that Strand Associates made a presentation at a February Town Council meeting. Strand has been working with the Town on its Comprehensive Plan. John stated that the presentation covered four major areas:

- Improvements to State Road 252
- Implementing a way-finding system
- Providing new trails/bike linkages
- Creating new gateways to Edinburgh

John stated that the cost of most of these improvements made them unrealistic.

John offered a copy of the presentation to any Commission member who was interested in reading it.

Fourth Order of Business – Timbergate Update – Wayne Gibbs

Wayne presented an updated version of his course improvements list that had been approved by the Commission. He said that the Pump House and on-course Restrooms improvements would be completed during the week of April 8.

John Rondot suggested that Wayne and his crew should continue to add improvement areas to the list and to present it at the next Commission meeting in July.


Ted Lucas, speaking for the Commission, commended Wayne and his crew for all of the improvements that are taking place at Timbergate. Comments are overwhelmingly positive.

Fifth Order of Business – Open Discussion

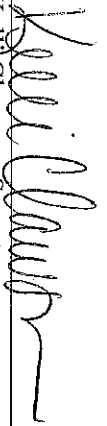
John Rondot reported that Bill West and his Wife had turned in petitions in support of the demolition of the Amos Grain Elevator. He was unsure of the actual number of signatures.]

There being no further business to conduct, Kelli Clawson made a motion to adjourn Becky Wilhelm seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Edinburgh Redevelopment Authority


John R. Drybread, President

Becky Wilhelm, Vice President


Kelli Clawson, Secretary