

MINUTES
Veneta Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, August 10, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.
Veneta Administrative Center, 88184 8th Street, Veneta, Oregon

Present: Jason Alansky, Linda Boothe, Thomas Cotter, Ryan Frome, Len Goodwin (Chair), Charles Ruff, Herb Vloedman (Vice Chair)

Absent: Dave D'Avanzo, Gina Haley-Morrell

Others: Sandra Larson, Mayor; Ric Ingham, City Administrator; Claudia Denton, Economic Development Specialist; Stephen Dobrinich, Program Specialist; Leif Hansen, Director of Engineering & Operations (LS Networks); Bryan Adams, Director of Sales & Marketing (LS Network).

1. Call to Order

- a. Chair Len Goodwin called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

2. Public Comment

- a. No public comment.

3. Administrative

- a. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: **Herb Vloedman made a motion to approve the minutes from July 13, 2016. Jason Alansky seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 5-0. Tom Cotter and Linda Boothe arrived after the vote.**

4. Implementation of Action Plan

- a. LS Networks Presentation

Leif Hansen and Bryan Adams introduced themselves and LS Networks to the Committee. Leif Hansen said LS Networks is working to push their services and infrastructure into smaller, rural areas across Oregon. Bryan Adams showed a PowerPoint presentation which mainly outlined LS Networks' Cooperative-ownership business model, the Connected Community Program, a case study from Maupin, OR, existing conditions in Veneta, and opportunities for public-private partnerships for fiber telecommunications service.

Adams specified that LS Networks is not interested in becoming a monopoly provider, and consistently works with other providers for an open infrastructure model. Adams went into more detail regarding LS Networks' existing conditions in Veneta, stating that partnership would focus on expanding distribution from the existing core network.

Adams and Hansen answered questions from the Committee and participated in discussion.

Len Goodwin asked what LS Networks would need in order to make Veneta part of their expansion plan. Adams said they would need a confirmation of interest, an idea of what the program, infrastructure, and service area would look like, and a

discussion about costs and funding options. A dedicated subcommittee for LS Networks to work with would help. Adams said that being transparent and pursuing this project together is the best approach. Hansen added the need for a basic needs assessment through a survey, as well as a map of all existing infrastructure. Len Goodwin said that part of the Veneta Business Connect surveys collected data about businesses' need for high speed internet. Ric Ingham added that the City's utility billing system can send out information in the monthly water bills, including newsletters and surveys.

There was consensus to continue this effort to the next level. Hansen asked if the Committee would like LS Network to drive some next steps. Goodwin said yes, and the Committee would think about its own next steps, including the possibility of forming a smaller group of the Committee to work on this.

5. Program/Project Updates

a. Economic Incentives and Related Projects

Claudia Denton informed the Committee that the Economic Incentive Programs work, including the Business Assistance Program and Economic Development Incentives Resource Guide, was completed. The Business Assistance Program was adopted by resolution by City Council during the August 8th meeting. She said she was in the process of adding the documents to the City website.

b. Veneta Business Connect

Claudia Denton said there was not a lot of new information, but that the subcommittee work has started which would be discussed later in the agenda. She said the follow-up was going along well.

c. Incoming RARE participant

Ric Ingham announced that the new RARE participant Marina Brassfield will start on September 12th. Ric Ingham and Len Goodwin said the City interviewed five great candidates, and Marina brings great energy and skills, and specifically requested to work with Veneta. Ingham said the Committee will get to meet her during the September 14th Economic Development Committee meeting.

6. Subcommittee Updates

Claudia Denton shared draft work plan handouts relating to each subcommittee. She said Steve Dobrinich is the main contact for the subcommittees until Marina starts in September. Denton and Dobrinich explained the components of the draft work plans and reported on the recruitment activities. Len Goodwin said it's important to make it clear that the subcommittees should clarify and refine their own purpose and activities, and should feel informed, not restricted, by the draft work plan and Veneta Business Connect final report.

Steve Dobrinich said he was aiming for subcommittees to start meeting in August, but it depends on everyone's schedules. Len Goodwin said realistically, subcommittee meetings may not be able to be scheduled until September.

7. Other

a. Len Goodwin reported on the State Joint Committee on Transportation meeting on July 20th and the testimony from community members. He said the committee members he spoke to were impressed by the work done by Veneta. He was told

by Ric Ingham that the ODOT Area Manager had put in a request for funds for a NEPA process and preliminary engineering work for the Fern Ridge Corridor Plan to be included in the upcoming Transportation Package. He said he feels that Veneta has the legislators' attention, and now needs to continue to push for this to be addressed and funded.

Ric Ingham said the City and the Committee needs to continue this work with a more detailed plan.

8. Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday September 14th, 2016 at 2 p.m. with a regular meeting schedule of the second Wednesday of the month.

9. Adjourn

- a. Chair Len Goodwin adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m.