

Union County Development Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting

November 2, 2022 at Noon

Board Members Present:

Tim Woodruff
Brian Bias
Brenda Paxton
Diana Bourne
Julie Coffman
Noah Studebaker

Employees Present:

Melissa Browning
Dawn Ripberger

Guests Present:

Danka Klein
Olivia Chewning

The meeting was called to order at 12:04pm on November 2, 2022 by Brian Bias.

Danka Klein had reached out to Tim Woodruff several weeks ago about the direction that the UCDC is going. Union County Foundation is trying to re-evaluate Union County Foundation. Danka Klein and Olivia Chewning attended the meeting to present an idea. UCF is working with Lilly Endowment about community leadership. A plan was put in place to follow through with the BSU training, COVID happened, and now UCF feels they need to go a different way now. The 2nd phase to BSU training was funded at \$40,000. UCF went back to Lilly to do something else. UCF wants to make a plan for the next 3-5 years for UCF work together with UCDC. The \$40,000 would be used to strategize plan to work together. Would like to model it like “Wayne County Forward” to discuss quality of place, quality of life, childcare, attracting populations, revitalize downtown. This “coalition” would ideally have one member from Union County Commissioners, Liberty Town Council, Union County Council, West College Corner Town Council, Union County Foundation, Union County Development Corporation, Union County Public Library.

Danka and Olivia want to take a risk by putting together a big bold plan. They both think that the UCDC needs more staffing. To compare: Wayne County EDC has 5 full time staff members, Wayne County Chamber has 5 full time staff members, and Wayne County Tourism has ____ employees. The USDA has grants out right now that have a 70% USDA funded with only 30% county level funded. Between Union County Commissioners/Town Council extending utilities out 44 W/27 S and West College Corner extending utilities North on 27 – Cottage Grove area will be where its at to develop. Butler County Ohio is the #1 growing county in Ohio.

Danka shared that in Franklin County they had hired a firm, The Wheatley Group, to develop a plan and to facilitate it. This group started full time with them and now consults 1-2 times per month.

Need to take risks now or county will fail.

October 2022 Minutes – The October meeting minutes were discussed and approved as written. Diana Bourne made a motion to approve the minutes, Noah Studebaker seconded. All board members present voted to approve.

October 5 – November 2, 2022 Financials – The financials were discussed and approved as reported. Julie Coffman made a motion to approve the financials, Diana Bourne seconded. All board members present voted to approve.

Old Business:

- Harvest Scarecrow Contest – collected \$118.51 for the Liberty Beautification Fund. 1st place – Lynn Hoffman, 2nd place – LES Kindergarten Classes “Pete the Cat,” and 3rd place – St Bridget’s Catholic Church.
- The Giving Pump at Liberty Shell raised \$496.67 to go towards the Liberty Beautification Fund. Monies were raised from 8/1/22-10/31/22 by Shell giving \$0.01 per gallon pumped on Pump #3.

New Business:

- Christmas in Our Hometown – December 4th
 - Liberty Lion’s Club will be hosting a “Lunch with Santa” at Edwards Memorial UMC from Noon-2pm. This is a ticketed event.
 - Dawnn is collecting merchant hours/events to put on one schedule
 - Collecting items for the community drawing.
- The board liked the new members since last meeting and outreaches made that are listed on the agenda.
 - Outreaches Made – Frame’s Chiropractic, Frame’s Outdoor, Precision Service & Repair LLC, Campbell Auction Services, VonDon Boutique and Beauty Bar.
 - New Members since last meeting – Frame’s Chiropractic, Frame’s Outdoor, Precision Service & Repair LLC, Campbell Auction Services, VonDon Boutique and Beauty Bar.
- We held a ribbon cutting at VonDon Boutique and Beauty Bar on 10/23/22. This is located on 101 South where Rip’s BBQ and The Country Store were located.
- 4C’s Thanksgiving Baskets giveaway – Melissa received a phone call from Headstart looking to find a Thanksgiving Meal basket giveaway for their clients since 4C’s was not doing it this year. Melissa then called Brenda Griffiee and Nick Tharpe to discuss ideas/options to get this to happen.
 - Update: In less than 48 hours the UCDC raised over \$3,000 for these baskets!
 - UCDC Board approved to accept these donations into the UCDC accounts and shop for the items needed. Email vote took place on 11/4/22.
- Budget – Melissa had emailed out the get after the October meeting to get feedback on it. At meeting today the board requested to put the 2022 budget, 2022 actual, and 2023 budget on one report. Melissa to adjust budget layout and send out.
- Tourism Fund – Melissa called auditor and there is approximately \$50,000 in the Innkeepers Fund and they still have November and December to collect.
- Comp time and pay for events. Dawnn stated that she still has not been compensated for all hours worked at Harvest Fest on October 8th. Dawnn worked 9.75 hours. Brenda stated that Dawnn only gets paid for 6 hours for working an event no matter the hours worked. Dawnn stated the UCDC was out of compliance with Federal laws for non-payment of hours worked. Tim Woodruff thinks the board was wrong in changing this in the middle of the year. Melissa requested the list of days that she missed from Diana. Diana to email to board.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:19pm by Brian Bias.

Next meeting is Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at Noon.