

Triangle of Opportunity Meeting

Date/Time: 01/31/2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Armington Park District, Armington, IL

AGENDA

Attendance: Matt Hurley, Karl and Mary Eschelbach, Susan Pyles, John Whalen, Lynn Rudin and John Birky

President Matt Hurley called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes, prior meeting: Minutes of the December 6, 2012 meeting were approved after corrections were made to community news from Deer Creek. Minutes now read: "The body shop is closed. The Santa Breakfast will be held at the Village Hall." Motion to approve minutes as corrected by Mary Eschelbach; seconded by John Birky. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer reported a balance of \$8,193.38. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report by John Birky; seconded by Lynn Rudin. Motion carried. The report was filed for audit. A 2012 Financial Report was included in the meeting's packet. Income over expenses for 2012 were \$639.87; Triangle of Opportunity Cycle Tour Income, \$1124.98.

Updates on Previous and On-Going Business: Annual fee letter has been sent to all Triangle communities. An updated copy of the annual letter to communities will be sent to Matt Hurley by Mary Eschelbach. Tremont and Mackinaw will receive a thank you card for their fee donation.

Mackinaw, IL will host the 2013 bike tour on August 3, 2013. John Birky said it is important to begin planning for this event and get the word out to local and state bike organizations. Susan Pyles and Lynn Rudin will work on this issue and look into bike organizations' websites. Susan Pyles suggested that the Triangle have a booth at the June 29, 2013 Cycling Classic to be held in Morton. This would benefit our tour.

A discussion was held on inviting other Logan County communities to our Triangle meetings. William D'Andrea is a contact person (planning) contact in Logan County (217-732-8835).

John Whalen requested that addresses of persons interested in development and those that make decisions for our rural communities be sent to him by e-mail by February 10. A magazine that is proposed for publication by the DCEO will be mailed out in late Spring 2013. The addresses should be sent to Matt Hurley so that the Triangle addresses will be in one document.

The annual dinner meeting will be held at the Palms Café in Atlanta, IL on March 28. A social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. with dinner following at 7 p.m. President Matt Hurley will contact the Palms Café regarding these times. He will also contact Bill Thomas and ask him to be the featured speaker at the dinner. Menu choices will be available from the Palms Café.

The annual IIRA conference will be held on March 6 & 7 in Peoria. Motion to approve paying the conference fee for Susan Pyles by Lynn Rudin; seconded by John Birky. Motion carried. Susan will send necessary information to Treasurer Eschelbach for fee remittance.

Susan Pyles and John Whalen spoke about Focus Forward CI. Whalen said that this initiative resulted from the reorganization of the Heartland Partnership. Focus Forward CI seeks to identify the strengths of the region and finding synergies locally. The organization according to Whalen is "Mapping on steroids." Whalen is responsible for 10 counties through his position at the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. He says that his biggest challenge is regionalism. Some groups are working against each other.

New Business: President Hurley requested that we look at the goals for the Triangle of Opportunity for 2013 and choose four targeted, measurable goals for the coming year. Those members in attendance made suggestions and additions for the goals list for 2012. President Hurley will send members an updated goals list, implementing the suggestions made at this meeting.

Brad Glenn requested that information on Agurban be included in the meeting's packet. He sent this information as "good news" for our nation.

An update was given for the 2013 Triangle of Opportunity Scholarship. All high schools in the Triangle have been sent information on the scholarship.

A suggestion was given for a speaker for the next Triangle meeting to be held on February 28 at the Busy Corner Restaurant in Goodfield, IL. President Hurley will contact Ellen George at Illinois Central College.

A short discussion was held on "Business After Hours" with information given by Susan Pyles. Morton's last event was held at the Community Harvest Food Pantry which serves 200 each Saturday.

Community News and upcoming events:

Deer Creek: The Village Board is going forward with The Safe Routes to Schools project. The village engineer will soon develop the needed TOPO map. A grant application for a new well and raw water line is being prepared. A generator will be installed for the village hall. The Deer Creek Community Club will hold its annual indoor garage sale on February 23.

Minier: St. John's Church will hold Monday night meals now through March. The meal is open to the public from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The meal includes: soup, sandwich and a dessert for a minimal cost. A benefit for Rook Kasselbaum will held on Feb. 1 at Olympia High School's Pack the Place. Kasselbaum, a student, has been diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer.

Morton: The village held its annual Joint Board Meeting. Kim Uhlig gave a report on Enterprise Zones which are expanding over the next two years. All Enterprise Zones that are expiring must reapply by March 15, 2013. Tazewell County will have a proposal on the ballot for the April election, a 1% educational sales tax, to benefit school districts. This will generate a good deal of funding for area districts. These funds cannot be applied to salaries, only to building expenses, etc.

Mackinaw: Bittersweet Lace, a downtown business, has closed. Haynes on Main is now in the construction phase. When renovations are complete, the business will offer food and alcoholic beverages. A March 23 open house is planned at the new village hall located in the former Buyer's Guide building. ESDA will now be located in former village hall. The new Casey's is doing phenomenal. The village is considering allowing backyard chickens within the village limits. A proposed stop light and turn lane on RT 9 is also being considered by IDOT.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Eschelbach, Secretary pro-tem