

Glacier County Regional Port Authority  
Tentative October Board Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2021, GCRPA Office

- I. Roll Call
  - A. Present: Fred Greco, Tony Sitzmann, Tom McKay, John Overcast, Neal Bartleson
  - B. Absent/Excused: Ken Hoyt, Mike Wineman, Pat Murphy. Absent/Unexcused: Skye Gilham
  - C. Guests: LeAnne Kavanagh, Kalen McKelvey, Sarah Converse, Sean McGuire
- II. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 2:00 by Fred. No suggestions on draft form of Vision Statement at this time.
  - A. Tony moved, seconded by Tom to approve October agenda. Motion carried.
  - B. Tony moved, seconded by Neal to approve September minutes. Motion carried.
  - C. John moved, seconded by Tony to approve September financials. Motion carried.
  - D. Tom moved, seconded by Neal to accept current budget. Motion carried.
  - E. No bills to present
  - F. No correspondence received
- III. EDF vote on July presentation, tabled from September meeting. – Topic died for a lack of a motion. A formal letter will be sent to the applicant.
- IV. Old Business
  - A. Overpass Project – Tom moved, seconded by Neal to proceed with Bryan Simons of Curiously Artistic on design and CBHS Plasma Welders on signage. Motion carried.
  - B. Executive Director Evaluation – Fred presented the average ratings on evaluations, followed by board discussion. Potential wage increase will appear on November agenda.
  - C. Additional venues for upcoming meetings – November meeting will take place at Medicine Spring Library at Blackfeet Community College. Masks must be worn, among other requirements TBA
  - D. GCRPA Loan Application – ideas to simplify and streamline will be sent to board as received.
  - E. Other Old Business – none
- V. New Business
  - A. Montana Economic Developers Fall Conference November 15-17 in Kalispell. Tony moved, seconded by Neal for Brenda to attend, covering the conference cost of \$220 plus lodging. Motion carried.
  - B. Other New Business – none
- VI. Strategic Planning session – discussion among Board regarding the Port Authority name and identity. As people continue to ask what a Port Authority is, the perception is that people are talking about the Port Authority. A general rule of advertisement was suggested, “Love it or hate it, if advertising is being talked about, it is working.” Other discussion listed under Opportunities on whether to move meetings around the Cut Bank area and tour different facilities. The Board announced contentment in our current location.
- VII. Activity Reports
  - A. Browning and surrounding communities – Businesses are requiring masks at this time.
  - B. Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce – Holiday Bazaar coming up on November 13
  - C. Sweetgrass Development – Corey has returned to Chicago. CEDS process has begun. Do we want to do gap financing with RLF? ARPA workshop on 10/27, sign up on ARPA

website. SGD will be hiring for Corey's position. Sean to attend NADO conference in Portland. "Build Montana" and "Grow Montana" are gaining speed.

- D. GFDA – working on a program regarding "Business Basics for Startups", would like to work with Ports, Chambers and Sweetgrass to host live trainings. Possible launch early next year.

VIII. Public Comment

- A. Board would like to do something special to honor Chief Earl Old Person. Be thinking of ideas.
- B. Comments were read from Mr. Sanford Stone on the lack of a teleconference link. Zoom will continue as possible with Library Wi-Fi. The GCRPA regrets mistakenly taking the opportunity out of the meeting without having discussed it during the September agenda.
- C. LeAnne Kavanagh inquired on whether the GCRPA has had any communication with the County's Project Manager regarding ARPA funds. Also discussed was the tightening time frame regarding the DEQ funds on the Mercantile Building. This information will be shared with Project Manager Mike Kittson.

- IX. Adjournment –Meeting adjourned by Neal at 3:02 (Fred had to leave meeting early). Next meeting to take place November 18 at Medicine Spring Library at Blackfeet Community College, Browning, MT at 2:00 p.m.

***Vision Statement (in draft form): Our vision is to be the best resource for business assistance for all communities within and surrounding Glacier County, through collaborations and partnerships.***