**Rugby JDA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 17, 2017**

**7:00 am @ JDA Office**

In Attendance: Thomas Graner, Nate Kunde, Pete Burgard, Jacob Nelson, Arland Geiszler, Liz Heisey, Tanner Johnson, Jennifer Stewart, Jodi Schaan, Daunne Heilman, Terry Hoffert, Karin Fursather, and Gary Kraft

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 a.m. by Father Tom Graner.

Consideration of the Agenda and review of April 19 meeting minutes was discussed. Tanner motioned to approve the minutes and Nate seconded the motion and was carried unanimously.

The Treasurer’s report was reviewed. Pete motioned to approve and Gary seconded; motion carried.

The Rugby Student Loan Assistance Program is up and running, the payments to this year’s recipient accounts will begin on June 1, 2017. The JDA website will be updated to reflect the deadline for the next application year.

An update on Chalmers was provided. Seven interested buyers have met with the Terry Kurowski. Fr. Tom and Tanner met with Terry K., and he has indicated that additional soil samples are needed.

The JDA would like to host a Contractor’s Fair at the Chalmers site June 6, with live broadcasting and one week of advertising prior to the event. Duanne has provided an estimate of $850 per lot for signs that will include lot dimensions, price, and description. Tanner motioned to allow a budget of $3,000.00 for the endeavor and for the marketing of Chalmers, Nate seconded and the motion carried. Liz H. will coordinate the effort, Duanne will handle advertising and Gary will handle the food for the event.

Fr. Tom indicated that there is an issue with absinth wormwood weed control and has asked Liz D. to follow up with Dave Walker to obtain a bid to treat the area.

Galen Mack has been in communication with American Tower Corporation and they should be able to release the lease where the easements are concerned. He will continue to address that issue. Liz H. wants to follow up and ensure there are restrictions to future extensions to the tower height as well.

Tanner met with some previous buyers who would like to be reimbursed for their specials, they would like for the JDA to pay the difference between what they paid and what is left. There does not appear to be any documentation to support this request. The issue warrants further discussion and documentation. Liz H. will look in to it further.

Strategic Plan will be streamlined once Liz H. is here. Liz H. intends to appropriate funds to organize a town hall, Jodi will assist and they will recruit volunteers.

An update of the SBPC Housing Rehab Program (HRP) was provided with construction for one of the homes tentatively to begin May 22, 2017. Funding for the 2017 year has not yet been announced. Liz D. mentioned that SBPC will need a liaison from JDA to visit the homes, so SBPC staff does not have to do it.

Arland met with Natural Gas suppliers who are putting numbers together, they have reviewed the feasibility study. If installed, most lines would be bored, and will not interfere with city streets as easements granted by the City and County will be used.

Duanne motioned that we establish a Natural Gas Task Force, Tanner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Liz H. and Arland have volunteered to be on the task force.

The board approved the implementation of “captcha” on the JDA website to prevent hacking and spam attacks, the cost of which is $150.00.

Liz H. is scheduled to attend the New Professional’s Day hosted by the ND Department of Commerce in Bismarck on May 23, 2017. Jodi Schaan and Arland Geiszler will be in attendance as well.

EDND is hosting the annual conference in Wahpeton this summer. Liz H. is scheduled to attend. Daunne Heilman will be checking her schedule and may attend as well.

Randi Heisler has requested financial support in booking a motivational speaker to come to Rugby this fall. This is an effort to bring business owners together downtown. Liz. H. will be following up with Randi in this regard to determine if the JDA will be contributing and how much.

Darci Gross has approached the JDA for funds to support the Relay for Life event. It is JDA’s position that its funds are appropriated for economic development.

A request for funds for the Dollars for Scholars was received, as well as funds to support the Rugby Preliminary Scholarship Pageant, and the SBDC fund. Gary Kraft moved to table the discussion until further notice and Terry seconded the motion which carried.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting June 21, 2017.