

MINUTES
BRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 24, 2023

TIME & PLACE:

The Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors met at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at the BRADD Conference Center.

Mayor David Burch led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Chairman Dillard welcomed guests in attendance. Those included Ms. Kacy Hicks and Ms. Sabrina McWhorter representing Shaping our Appalachian Region (SOAR). Additionally, Chairman Dillard asked Ms. Dawn Devore to introduce her guest, Ms. Cathy Nunn who has been appointed as proxy to the BRADD Board for the City of Edmonton, Mayor Doug Smith.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Chairman Dillard introduced guest speaker, Ms. Sherry Murphy, Executive Director of the Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. Ms. Murphy spoke on the topic, First impressions are lasting impressions, What does your Community say to Visitors? Ms. Murphy shared with the members about her background and how she began her career in the tourism industry. Ms. Murphy informed of the newly awarded ARPA funding of \$75 million received by State Tourism. This funding will be filtered down to the local bureaus/counties. These funds hold designation to be used to market KY. Ms. Murphy addressed the goal of getting the most economic impact to our area, tourism is all about bringing the most money into a community that wasn't made in that community. With ARPA funds to promote KY, many visitors are expected in the future. She encouraged the local elected officials to examine their jurisdictions "entryways". She stressed the importance of making an appealing first impression and how it is very impactful for attracting tourists. Simply updating county/city signage, landscaping, keeping the "entry" to your county/city clean, well maintained and well lighted will create an attractive and inviting place. A quality entryway results in a quality community. Ms. Murphy entertained questions before concluding.

ATTENDANCE:

It was determined a quorum was present. (See attached attendance record).

MINUTES:

With no corrections or additions, the minutes of the April 26, 2023 meeting were approved as emailed. (See attached)

Motion was made by Mayor Dwayne Hatcher, seconded by Mr. Sam Terry to approve the April 26, 2023 board minutes as emailed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Officers: No Report

Council Reports:

Aging Council:

Chairman Dillard called on Mr. Jesse Varner, Aging Council Chairman. Mr. Varner reported the Aging Council met on Wednesday, May 17th at the BRADD Office. A guest speaker from Horizon's PACE program provided a brief presentation on their services. BRADD staff have worked diligently to clear the meals waiting list and as of May 1st, the list is down to 110 individuals. Referrals continue to be made daily. Mr. Varner expressed thanks to BRADD staff for their work to reduce the waiting list. Mr. Varner informed BRADD recently purchased garden boxes for area Senior Centers. Some indoor and some outdoor as space allowed. The boxes will assist in providing physical activity and healthy food throughout the year to seniors. BRADD also purchased laptops for Senior Centers to increase access to the Internet. These computers will be used for recreation, will assist attendees with virtual meetings and doctor's appointments, and will also be used for keeping in contact with family. May is Older Americans Month and to celebrate, Senior Centers provided events, including a pizza party, ice cream party, and a picnic. Additionally, staff are trying to identify those turning 100 years of age this year. If you know of someone reaching this amazing milestone, please notify the Aging Department staff. Mr. Varner reminded that Aging Council members whose term expires in July, letters will be sent to Mayors, Judges, and Senior Centers asking to reappoint their member or appoint a new member. Aging Council officer nominations will take place at the next meeting on August 16th, 2023 at 10AM at the BRADD Conference Center.

Special Advisors:

Gilbert Mischel, Senator McConnell's Representative, provided various updates which included, the Senator's Office continues to receive broadband requests while much progress has been made there are still unserved areas. Many of the

lakes in Central KY have issues and concerns expressed to the Senator's Office. Staff are working with the Corps of Engineers to resolve but it is a slow process. The Senator is currently in the state and is making visits near Lexington. Mr. Mischel spoke about the debt ceiling issues and the Senators support of Speaker McCarthy.

Mr. Mark Lord, Congressman Brett Guthrie's Representative, informed the Congressman's staff person Ms. Kylie Foushee, who was also present, is the Economic Development Director who works with grants. Mr. Lord encouraged members to contact her with any questions or needs. Mr. Lord spoke about the debt ceiling and the Federal claw back for some ARPA funds. Mr. Lord reported the Congressman's Office understands some unspent funds are a result of guidance issues as well as supply chain shortages. The Congressman is also thinking about the infrastructure capacity concerns with the expansion of economic development across the state. The Congressman will be visiting Barren and Butler counties.

Ms. Sandy Simpson, Congressman Comer's Representative, informed a hearing has been held concerning prescription drug pricing, the Congressman is working to find out the role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) to better understand the impact they have on the pharmacy market in determining the cost of prescription drugs. Ms. Simpson encouraged members to contact the office with any needs.

Ms. Martha Jane King, DLG Representative, informed the Governor and his staff have been very busy lately. A memorial dedication has been conducted in memory of COVID victims. The Governor has signed 24 state drug activity plans consisting of many officials and professionals who have aided in the seizure of the dangerous fentanyl drug. Collaboration continues for the special focus of broadband. \$17 million in federal funds have been designated to increase school based mental health services across the state, as it has been the number two concern in schools right now.

Mr. Joe Plunk, KYTC, reported much construction is underway all across the district. Many resurfacing projects in every county, a detailed list can be found on the website. Large projects include the work on I-65 and US highway 79 in Logan County. A public meeting will be held in Simpson County for the reconstruction of West Cedar Street in Franklin. Warren County 31-W Bypass work will begin soon. Mr. Plunk is looking forward to the continued improvements for the region.

Ms. Molly Schorer, Mammoth Cave National Park, informed visits have been down for the month of April. Celebrations occurred for National Park week with international dark sky, a musical event by the Louisville Orchestra which resulted in attracting over 1,500 people into the park. There will be a private swearing-in-

event for 30 new citizens in the cave. Park improvement projects continue with cave trail work including the opening of a new section near crystal lake. The hotel roof project is ongoing and will look like a new building when it is complete.

Staff Reports:

Ms. Emily Hathcock, Associate Director of Economic Development, reported the members packet contains a newly updated project impact report with 49 active projects representing \$42 million dollars of investment. 185 funding applications awaiting approval representing \$288 million dollars in investment and 33 projects in development. Ms. Hathcock announced the members packet contains upcoming planning and zoning training opportunities as well as Teex Courses for infrastructure disaster management certification.

Mr. Eric Sexton, Executive Director, provided various announcements and updates including recognizing staff anniversaries. From April, Ms. Jenna Simmons one year anniversary. For May, Mr. Austin Sims and Mr. Matthew Pedigo one-year anniversaries. Additionally, Ms. Marie Green was recognized for five-year anniversary and Ms. Annette Hill for ten years of service. Mr. Sexton spoke about the opioid settlement funds our jurisdictions are receiving and encouraged members to take a regional approach to planning with the need for prevention, recovery, and treatment. Mr. Sexton has been part of team meetings to further research effective ways to utilize funds to help combat this crisis. Mr. Sexton informed members about an upcoming event sponsored by the Bright Coalition, the packet contains information for the Partnership for Health Workshop to be held on June 6, 2023. Mr. Sexton spotlighted two BRADD staff who recently participated in the Scottsville Mayors podcast speaking about BRADD services. Ms. Hollie Smith spoke about Aging programs and Ms. Emily Hathcock spoke about Economic Development. These recordings can be found on BRADD social media, or any podcast app. Mr. Sexton encouraged all members to attend next month's board meeting to be held June 28, 2023. This meeting will satisfy the training requirements for the Department for Aging and Independent Living. A very engaging speaker is planned.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Council Reports:

1. Clearinghouse Projects

Mayor Billy Phelps, Secretary, reported the Executive Council met prior to the BRADD Board Meeting and considered four regional clearinghouse projects. The

project descriptions were provided in the board packet. Upon review of the projects, the Executive Council recommended approval.

Motion: Mayor Billy Phelps made a motion to approve four regional clearinghouse projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mark Stratton. Motion carried. (See attached)

2. FY 24 Budget

Judge/Executive Dennis Harper, Treasurer, reported the BRADD Executive Council met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. A one-page summary of the budget is provided in the member's packet. For FY 24, BRADD has a budget of approximately \$22.56 million in revenue and \$22.54 in expenditure. Upon approval, a copy of the budget summary will be placed on the BRADD website.

Motion: Judge/Executive Dennis Harper made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Billy Phelps. Motion carried. (See attached)

ADJOURN

With no further business, a motion was made by Mayor Dwayne Hatcher and seconded by Mayor Randall Curry to adjourn.



Signed, Chairman



Approved, Secretary