

OTTAWA PORT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 15, 2016

ROLL CALL

Keith Conrad called a regular meeting of the Port District to order at City Hall on July 15, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. with the following board members present: Keith Conrad, William Franklin, Jr., John Stone, Charles Sheridan and Katie Troccoli. Also present were Boyd Palmer, Reed Wilson, Rich Burton, and Patrick Feehan.

MINUTES

Minutes from June 17, 2016 meeting were presented and approved by unanimous vote following a motion by John Stone and second by Charles Sheridan.

TREASURERS REPORT

Katie Troccoli provided bank statements and account balances and requested approval to pay the treasurer report and prevailing wage publication bills and the bill of Diane Stelken. Her financial report and payment of bills was approved on motion of William Franklin, Jr, second by Charles Sheridan and a unanimous oral vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Ottawa Chamber of commerce provided a mailing relevant to membership and a reminder as to the upcoming Welcome Burger.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Patrick Feehan, the Commodore of the Illinois River Basin Boating Association addressed the Board about the proposed port activities near Buffalo Rock. He commented about the natural beauty of the area and extent of infringement that the proposed port activities could have on the scenic backwater area. He commented on the \$414,000,000.00 in tourism funds that are generated relevant to the river basin. Discussion followed by various board members as to their knowledge of the area and the extent of space needed for staging. Safety issues were also discussed due to the significant pleasure boating in the area. Patrick requested that the board go on record as opposing the project and participate in lobbying efforts against the project. As this item was not on the agenda for action, this matter was tabled.

Reed Wilson commented on the American in Bloom project and judging. He also spoke about the new EDC and approved lease at IVCC. Reed and Boyd spoke about the Starved Rock County Brand relevant to tourism and development and efforts made in the area to promote a farm to table economy. Reed spoke about City of Ottawa properties available for sale including the Little City building, the Fulton Street property, and the Ottawa Industrial Park. The City is still working on upgrading their website. Reed and Boyd spoke of a senior housing study which is underway. Reed commented on the success of the Wine Fest despite some weather issues. Discussion followed about Tangled Root's participation at the Wine Fest and other expansion contemplated by Tangled Roots. Boyd commented that new restaurant on Madison Street, Allure, has opened successfully. C230 restaurant is also open.

MEMBER REPORTS

Charles Sheridan spoke as to his investigation as to construction costs associated with possible construction of a metal shell building as requested by various parties seeking a business location. He provided various cost estimates as well as anticipated acreage needed.

John Stone spoke about the need for a residential and/or bicycle corridor to the Ottawa area north of Interstate 80. Discussion followed about possible available grants for such a project.

Keith Conrad commented on the board's need to cultivate a project. Possible projects include: a rail switching area east of Route 23 along the Fox River; airport improvements at Sky Dive Chicago; a downtown Ottawa marina and dredging of part of the Fox River near the aqueduct.

ADJOURN

There being no further reports or business, the meeting was adjourned at about 9:00 a.m. upon motion of Katie Troccoli and second by Charles Sheridan and unanimous oral vote. The next regular meeting of the district will be August 19, 2016.