

December 2015 Meeting Minutes
Greater Nocona Area Economic Development Corporation (Type A) &
Nocona Municipal Economic Development Corporation (Type B)
at the Tales and Trails Museum December 1st, 2015

Agenda items:

I. Roll call and call to order: Type A & Type B – Confirm Quorum for Type A & Type B

Type A Board Vice President Chance Dingler called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm. Also present were Tracey O’Neal and Tyler Thomas. President Kyle Reynolds assumed leadership of the meeting upon his arrival shortly thereafter.

Type B Board President Phil Staley called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm. Also present were Billy Henley, Robert Herndon, Sandra Reynolds and Brandi Shipman.

Also present was Randy Duckworth, Nocona Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

a. Approval of Type A and Type B November meeting minutes

Both Boards approved the November minutes

b. Acceptance of October Type A & Type B financials

Both Boards accepted the October financials.

II. NOCONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENT BARRIERS PROJECT

The director noted that at the last meeting the Type B and A Boards held the public hearing, with no negative comments being made. The director explained the Type B and A Boards needed to decide whether to approve the project and, if so, request staff place it on the City Council agenda for approval to expend the funds.

The Type A and Type B Boards approved the \$15,000 from the Nocona EDCs (\$7,500 per Board) and requested staff place it on the City Council agenda for approval to expend the funds.

III. ANNUAL BUDGET AUDIT

The director told the Board members Reece Berry with Cris Lemon CPA was still working on the audit. And suggested the audit be deferred to the January meeting. According to the director, January will still allow enough time to meet state reporting requirements.

The Type A and B Boards tabled the audit to the January meeting.

IV. Staff Updates and Travel

a. Manufacturer Prospect Update

The director explained that he had spoken with several state and federal agencies during his trip to Austin last month and emailed the contacts that building a new building was the best option within Nocona. The director also explained in the email that changes to state programs would make a February 2016 application more profitable for the project. The director has not received any reply from the manufacturer.

b. Shopko Prospect Update

No further word from the developer or real estate agent had been received by the director.

c. Nocona Boot Company Building Update

The director said the auction, Nov. 20, did not receive any bids either locally or through the internet. The director then posed the question are the Boards at all interested in trying to save the building? The director noted that even having the building donated for tax purposes would require a fairly large investment and therefore some purpose for the building should be determined prior to any financial commitment. There are several possible uses including an event

center or a skills training center for Nocona ISD and adult education. Given the lack of interest at the auction, the director suggested this may be the last opportunity to save this historical structure.

The Boards discussed the possible expenses required and if there seemed to be any indication what the current owner's plans might be. Type B Board member Robert Herndon did present a conversation he had with VFW previous commander Randy Duckworth about the possibility of a military museum and memorial garden on the property.

The Boards encouraged Mr. Duckworth to consider such a use and to work with the current owner about the feasibility.

d. Fiber Optic Network Project Update

The director noted the meeting was attended by about 15 people, including representatives from the city, Nocona General Hospital and Nocona ISD, and was very informative. The director attached a wrap-up article submitted to the Nocona News to the Boards' materials and presented an additional wrap-up from the consultant. The director then suggested the next step would be to have a meeting with the technology suppliers and the primary institutions about their interest in moving forward and to establish a community working group to create a viable plan. He said that was being planned to occur before Christmas. The technology companies also told the director they are working on the plans for how a network would be built for Nocona.

The Type A Board appointed Dr. Chance Dingler and the Type B Board appointed Brandi Shipman to serve on the working group.

As part of the continuing development of the project, the director suggested the Type A Board approve funding for technology surveys for the city, Nocona General Hospital and Nocona ISD. The survey would assist each primary institution assess the savings a fiber optic network could provide. Cost for all three surveys would be less than \$5,000 and would be negotiated once the institutions agreed to participate. The director noted this should be a Type A project so it would not require a 60-day clock and if approved request staff place it on the City Council agenda for approval to expend the funds.

Type A Board members asked if this was in addition to the consultant fee and the director, after reviewing the Board materials, decided it was additional monies.

Following discussion of the need for such surveys, the Type A Board decided not to approve the proposal.

e. Small Business Development Center Visits Update

The director told Board members visits will resume after the first of the year. There continues to be positive comments from both the SBDC and business owners about the visits. There is also discussion with the SBDC about presenting workshops in Nocona next year.

f. Lemonade Day Project Update

The director said the Lemonade Day national director held a workshop for Nocona organizers in mid-November and was greatly impressed with the team Nocona has working on the project. It was determined to look into whether to also include 7th graders as well as 5th graders. Lemonade Day for North Montague County is scheduled for May 21. Kickoff will begin in January at the five schools in North Montague.

g. Leadership Montague County Economic Development Class, Dec. 11

The director and Janis Crawley from Bowie EDCs are facilitating the class, which will include tours of the Fenoglio Boot Company and the Nokona baseball glove factory.

h. TexasOne Christmas at the Mansion, Dec. 14, Austin

The director and his wife will be attending.

V. Items of community interest

- a. Dec. 4 Mingle and Jingle at Red River Station Inn
- b. Dec. 5 Christmas in Nocona; Cowboy Christmas Campfire
- c. Dec. 7 Storytime for Christmas
- d. Dec. 12 Nocona Nights Cowboy Christmas Ball
- e. Dec. 14 Christmas Dinner at the Nocona Senior Center
- f. Dec. 25 Christmas
- g. Jan. 1 New Years

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.