

Washburn Life
(Washburn Area Improvement Association)
(Official)
Meeting Minutes
March 12th, 2024

Location: Washburn City Hall

Board Members Present: Rhonda Johnson/ Mark Lelm/ Staci Berube/ Donna Sommer/ Rachel Retterath/ Alyson Teigen/ Michele Jacobson/ Richard Perkerewicz.

Board Members Absent: Rashel Crowell (e)

Others Present: Janell Heberlie/ Tony Thoreson/ Anna Hays/ Sean Stocker/ Karson Pederson/ Jessica Bell/ Savannah Schafer

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by Vice-President Mark Lelm.

- 1) Secretary Report: Minutes from the January 9th and February 16th Special Meeting (Motion to approve as written by Rachel, 2nd by Richard) **Approved.**
- 2) Treasurer's Report: Report as of March 12th, 2024 (Motion to approve as presented by Rachel, 2nd by Alyson) **Approved.**
- 3) Old Business:
 - a) **Strengthen ND "Spreading Hope" Program:** Rhonda gave an update and explained the program. Postcards have been distributed to local businesses and handed out at the meeting.
 - b) **Light Up Washburn Status & Volunteers:** Mark gave an update on the progress of installing solar lights at Riverside Park. He will work with the park board to get trees trimmed. The goal is to have all the lights at the park up by Riverboat Days (May 31-June 2).
- 4) New Business:
 - a) **Apex (Discovery Wind) Clean Energy Project Update:** Anna Hays, Sean Stocker & Karson Pederson from Apex gave an update on the wind tower project and the grants/scholarships available. There will be approx. 94 turbines (abt. 4.5 megawatts per turbine for a total of 420 megawatts). Timeline: Construction: Summer of 2025/ Operational: Late 2026.

Anna spoke about Discovery Wind's Community Outreach Program (sponsorships, memberships, and grants). They have supported many organizations & events in Washburn. Karson spoke about the Discovery Wind Scholarship (3 scholarships of \$8,000 for any seniors in McLean County who are pursuing a career in clean energy. There is also a \$4,000 scholarship for a student pursuing a secondary preference career).
 - b) **BND Flex Pace Buydown Assistance (MKABB Propertied LLC):** Tony Thoreson went over the new application (MKABB Properties LLC-Mitch & Kristi Wachendorf). They are purchasing the clinic building owned by Steve & Michelle Leidholm. It will be a 5-year term buydown assistance (\$13,500). Discussion. Rachel made a motion to fund the buydown, 2nd by Richard. **Approved.**

- c) **ND Dept. of Commerce Rural Blight & Slum Removal Grant:** Rachel went over the grant. Washburn Life will work with the city of Washburn. Discussion.
- d) **Directors/Officers' Liability Insurance:** Donna went over the renewal notice from Western Insurance for directors/officers' insurance (\$830/year). Donna made a motion to renew the insurance policy, 2nd by Michele. **Approved.**
- e) **Cell Phone Compensation:** Donna explained to the board how Rhonda uses her personal cell phone for Washburn Life business (calls, emails, texts etc.). Rachel made a motion to reimburse Rhonda \$75/month on her cell phone bill. 2nd by Alyson. **Approved.**
- f) **Board Attendance/Notifications:** Rhonda discussed the board meeting attendance/ notifications according to the by-laws. She mentioned that she isn't always getting members of the board to let her know they will be absent from an upcoming meeting and has had to cancel meetings at the last minute for lack of quorum.
- g) **Missouri River Bluegrass Tickets:** B.A.N.D. has sent two tickets to the Missouri River Bluegrass festival at the Cross Ranch for our donation to them. Discussion. Alyson made a motion to use the tickets as a prize at the Taste of Washburn. 2nd by Richard. **Approved.**
- h) **Riverboat Days-Advertising:** Tabled. Rashel was absent.
- i) **Riverboat Days-Touch-a-Truck:** Tabled. Rashel was absent.
- j) **AmeriCorps-ND Senior Companion Program:** Rhonda attended the Senior Center potluck meal with a representative from the ND Seniors Companion Program. Rhonda explained the volunteer program to the group and is waiting to hear back from the senior center if they are interested to being a host site and have the program based out of their building.
- k) **Washburn Life Golf Tournament:** Discussion was held about hosting a golf tournament. Alyson and Rachel will talk to John from Painted Woods Golf Course and bring back information to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: April 9th at 12 pm at **Washburn City Hall**

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm by Vice-President Mark.

Rhonda Johnson

Minutes submitted 2/15/2024.

Approved April 9, 2024