

**GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 11, 2022**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Steve Damron, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. A roll call was done and quorum was established.

*Members Present* – Cindy Humm (Franklin County); Robert Hopkins, David Larkin, Julie Peterson, John Rendleman (Jackson County); Scott Wilmouth (Kinkaid-Reeds Creek Conservancy District); Ryan Guthman (Murphysboro); Steve Damron, Steve Draege (Jefferson County); Bruce Morgenstern, Fred Kelly (Perry County); Robert Spencer (Pinckneyville); Alexander Simpson (Williamson County); Mark Kronos (Cartersville); Kathy Lively (Herrin); Keith Violet (ALG)

*Members Absent* - Neil Hargis, Joshua Qualls, Kevin Weston (Franklin County); Craig Miles (Benton); Chris Veteto (West Frankfort); Steven Mitchell (Carbondale); Cliff Lindemann, James Malone (Jefferson County); Mary Ellen Bechtel (Mt. Vernon); Josh Gross, Brian Otten (Perry County); Ruth Hale (Du Quoin); Travis Emery, Jim Marlo, Jeffery Robinson (Williamson County); Glenn Clarida (Marion)

*Staff Present* - Cary Minnis (Executive Director), Abra Phillips (Admin Asst & Bookkeeper)

**2. Recognition of Visitors - None**

**3. Consent Agenda**

Motion made by Kathy Lively and seconded by John Rendleman to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The following reports were accepted:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting – September 14, 2022
- b) Minutes of the Executive Meeting – October 6, 2022
- c) Financial Report - September, 2022
- d) List of Bills – None (no bills over \$5000)
- e) Staff Report - September, 2022

**4. Old Business - None**

**5. New Business**

a) Health Insurance Renewal – Cary Minnis went over the comparison of plans that the Executive Committee has reviewed (included in the handout). In order to keep the same plan with the lower \$250 deductible and \$1,250 out of pocket cost, it will be a 20% increase in the monthly premium (Current rate: \$746.86; New rate: \$895.13). Cary explained that the Executive Committee recommended to renew the current plan.

Motion made by Julie Peterson and seconded by Mark Kronos to approve the recommendation to renew the current health insurance plan. The motion carried with 13 out of 15 votes in favor of renewing the current plan.

b) Annual Meeting Awards – Cary announced the following nominations that came in and asked members to elaborate about their choices.

**Business/Industry Award** – established to recognize a firm’s outstanding contributions to the Region’s progress and economic growth.

1. St Nick's Brewery – DuQuoin
2. St Nick's Brewery – SI Airport

Julie Peterson explained that both of these locations and the one in Chester are all owned/started up by a woman named Abby Ancell, and feels that the nomination should include all locations and recognize her for establishing this chain in Southern Illinois.

Motion made by John Rendleman and seconded by Julie Peterson to award the nomination to St Nick's Brewery in general (all locations) and to recognize Abby Ancell as the owner of all 3 locations. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Meritorious Service Award** – established as a means of recognizing an institution, organization, or others for significant contributions and service to benefit the citizens and governments of the Greater Egypt Region and Southern Illinois.

1. Caring and Sharing Thrift Shop – Pinckneyville
2. Catlin Langellier – Art Teacher at Murphysboro High School

Julie Peterson nominated Catlin Langellier due to the hard work she's been putting in to making Southern Illinois beautiful with her detailed murals that depict scenes that can be found in our area. Murals such as this have been recently going up all over Southern Illinois and she feels that we should recognize that.

Robert Spencer discussed his nomination for the Caring & Sharing Thrift Shop. They started out at the Pinckneyville Hospital and have been going for over 5 years now. The organization gives out scholarships and is 100% voluntary.

Motion made by Julie Peterson and seconded by Robert Hopkins to award the nomination to Catlin Langellier – Murphysboro High School Art Teacher. The motion carried with 6 votes in favor and 0 votes against it.

Motion made by Mark Kronen and seconded by Robert Spencer to award the nomination to Caring and Sharing Thrift Shop in Pinckneyville. The motion did not pass with 4 votes in favor and 6 votes against it.

c) Miscellaneous – New Grants – Cary Minnis announced that Greater Egypt has been awarded a \$200K State Planning and Research grant from IDOT for a Master Bike Plan for the communities of Benton and Mt. Vernon. This will allow us to expand the geographical reach of the online bike map in our area. He also announced that DRA has announced their grant recipients and we have received 2 State Economic Development Program grants for Sesser and SIU Carbondale for a total of around \$500K. Also, the Village of Creal Springs has been awarded a \$2.6 million grant from DRA. These grants add over \$3 million within our area, for a grand total of over \$20 million in grants that we've helped bring to this region this calendar year.

## **6. Matters from the Floor - None**

## **7. Upcoming Meetings**

Executive Committee – October 26, 2022

Regular Meeting – November 9, 2022 – Julie Peterson asked if this was due to election day being on Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup>. Cary Minnis thinks this might be a typo and will check into it and send a notice out to all members.

## **8. Adjournment**

Motion made by Mark Kronen and seconded by John Rendleman to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

*Copies of documents furnished to the Commission in connection with this meeting are on file at the Greater Egypt office in Marion, Illinois.*