
TIRZ BOARD MEETING
January 19, 2017
Minutes

Members Present: Kelly Young~ Chairman
Robert (Stormy) Higgins ~ Vice Chair
Charles Black

Members Absent: Sam Vinson

Staff Present: Dana Schoening, Director/Planning and Development Services
Taurus Freeman, Assistant Director/Planning and Development Services
Kelley Messer, Assistant City Attorney
Melissa Farr, Administrative Secretary

Others present: Bruce Kreidler, Councilman

Item One: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Basement Conference Room of City Hall.

Item Two: Approval of Minutes

Mr. Higgins moved to approve the minutes for October 20, 2016. The vote was approved by three (Young, Higgins, and Black,) and none opposed.

Item Three: Discussion of Marketing Plan Development

The discussion centered on methods to ensure all developers are aware of this resource. Mr. Higgins stated that large developers are most likely already aware that funds exist. He indicated his hope of Planning and Development Services reaching out to help smaller developers expand as they apply for permits within the department.

Mr. Black mentioned the need for advertising TIRZ funds on a website for small businesses. Mr. Young added that he had performed a search for TIRZ Abilene and was only able to see meeting minutes. He reminded that people still associate TIRZ with Tax Increment Financing, or TIF. Everyone agreed website advertisement is necessary, and to partner with the Abilene Chamber of Commerce, Texas Tech Small Business Development Center (Abilene), Abilene Industrial Foundation, Development Corporation of Abilene, and other links to promote the TIRZ project and financing plan to the public.

Mr. Schoening agreed the program is developing, and said his department is always looking for ways to improve the website. He said this is a good starting point to promote this tool, and marketing avenues may move in other directions as the program continues to grow. Mr. Schoening and staff will begin this process and offer marketing tools for the link on a website at the next meeting for the Board's review.

Item Four: Financial Reports

Mr. Schoening provided an overview of the current report. He acknowledged the accumulation of funds.

Questions were raised to confirm how the funds are being invested, or reinvested. Members asked when the collection of real property taxes were completed for 2016, as they wanted to know if additional funds were expected at this point.

It was decided by all to invite Mr. Michael Rains, Director of Finance, to the next meeting for this discussion.

Item Five: Adjournment

The TIRZ meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Approved: _____
Chairman

