

TO: CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS
FROM: Kim Fernea
RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MONTHLY REPORT
DATE: September 1, 2021

Please accept this memo as the City of Dripping Springs Economic Development Committee's (the "Committee") monthly update to Council regarding projects and progress during the month of August 2021.

The Committee convened at City Hall on August 25th.

Agenda:

- **Discussion regarding the Economic Development mission and responsibilities as they relate to the Economic Development Committee Ordinance**
 - The Committee will work to formalize our updated mission. We acknowledge our role as a recommending committee of volunteers (a single member of our broader diverse community) and will work to view all projects presented through the lens of potential economic drivers that may have the potential to benefit our community. Our comments will adhere to the SWOT analysis format. We will strike a professional balance while addressing perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
- **Discuss and consider options regarding meeting format:**
 - The Committee will continue to meet in person, while practicing safety measures that align with the City's COVID protocols.
- **Reports**
 - **City Council Monthly Report, Mayor Pro Tem Taline Manassian**
 - We continue to work through the budget, which will not be finalized until September.
 - We annexed and approved the Cynosure development, which is 960 units on 283 acres in the northeast quadrant of town. This project has important road development that will go down to 290, though the project does not go down to 290.
 - We approved permitting for the Songwriters Festival, which is back this year and even has an additional venue.
 - Anarene went before P&Z-received approval with some minor adjustments. Will go before Council next.
 - **TIRZ Projects Report, Committee Member Dave Edwards**
 - Reminder that the City/ISD did not reach an agreement. The City will move forward looking at other potential sites.
 - Old Fitzhugh Project – in survey/engineering process
 - Triangle – on hold
 - Public Parking – on hold
 - **Chamber of Commerce Report, Committee Member & Chamber President Susan Kimball**
 - Businesses throughout the community are hiring (especially in the service sector)
 - Get Along Grill – limited hours of operation due to staffing shortages
 - Chick-Fil-A – has altered their hours of operation to 8am-8pm for the same reason
 - Leadership Dripping Springs is taking applications.
 - Coffee Connector with Congressman Williams will be held 9/17 @ 8am
 - Keeping a close eye on the impacts of COVID as it related to business vitality
 - **Dripping Springs ISD Report, Committee Member & Chief Human Resource Officer of DSISD Tiffany Duncan**
 - School started on August 17th with 8 campuses open now (5 elementaries, 2 middle, 1 high school)

- Elementary 5-Cypress Springs is open, as is the relocated Walnut Springs.
 - Ribbon Cuttings for both are scheduled.
- Current student population: 8,001
- DSISD employees: 1075 regular employees with 100 substitutes and temp workers
 - Standard payroll includes between 1200-1300
- DSISD enrollment is on track with projections after a lull during COVID
- Virtual Academy for K-5 started August 25th with 142 enrolled
- Housing challenges exist locally within the area served by DSISD - especially for auxiliary, clerical, instructional aid, and support staff positions
 - Median home prices now hover just below \$600,000.
- **Community Activities Report**
 - ESD #6 has opened their new station at Belterra. 200 citizens attended the opening. This station includes a ladder truck and a bay for EMS.
 - Hometown Missions: Still looking for skilled workers and donations.
 - Home in a Month: Raised funds and will spend Friday/Saturday building the home. Go to homeinamonth.org for more info.

Next meeting will be September 22, 2021 at 4:00pm.

Committee members present: David Edwards, Susan Kimball, John Kroll, Andrea Nicholas, Tiffany Duncan, Council Member Taline Manassian, Robert Avera, Kim Fernea

Chamber members present: Denise Schroeder

City representatives present: Mayor Bill Foulds, Michelle Fischer, Council Member Sherri Parks

Community members present: Russell Collins