

**HIGHLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, March 24, 2010**

Members of the Highland Redevelopment Commission (“RC”, “Commission”) met on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at 6:45 PM in the Upper Conference Room within the Municipal Building at 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana. Vice President Greg Kuzmar called the meeting to order. Minutes were prepared by Cecile Petro, Redevelopment Director.

**ROLL CALL:** Commissioners present included Bridget DeYoung, Greg Kuzmar, Michael Maloney, and Dominic Noce. Also in attendance were Town Council Liaison Dan Vassar and School Town of Highland appointed Commissioner Luanne Jurczak, and Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro. Commissioner Crowel was absent with notice.

**General Substance of the Discussion**

**1. Kiosk Leases**

The Director reported that she has emailed the new lease prices for the kiosk to the Chamber, the Downtown Association, and has requested publication in the town’s newsletter. Other emails have been sent out to those who expressed interest in renting a panel previously. Brown Insurance and Popa Heating and Cooling will renew their leases and a panel is being produced for the Centennial.

**2. Bult Oil site**

Bids are due on April 14, 2010 for the purchase of the former Bult Oil site. They will be opened at the regular public meeting of the RC.

**3. Establishing a New Redevelopment or Economic Development Area**

Commissioners reviewed the proposed map for a new Redevelopment or Economic Development Area. The Commission recommended the creation of a Redevelopment Area taking in the major business corridors in town. The purpose of the new Redevelopment Area (or RAI) is 1) to demonstrate that Highland is business friendly, 2) to have incentives in place to offer business owners, and 3) to prepare for the next generation of business including high tech businesses. It was also recommended that the convenience store located on the southeast corner of Ridge and Grace be included. The Director will contact Dan Botich with Cender & Company to request a proposal outlining the cost and a time table for this project by the Commission’s April public meeting. The Building Commissioner has asked that the Director attend a Plan Commission Study Session to provide information on this project.

**4. Lake County Housing Task Force Update**

The Director provided an update on her involvement with the Lake County Housing Task Force. She explained the importance of housing issues as they relate to business development in town and the problems with homestead tax exemptions.

**5. Meeting with Owners in the Light Industrial Area**

The Commission reviewed the meeting with owners in the light industrial area which took place before the study session. Two topics were covered: progress with the storm water situation in the largest light industrial area and the benefits of working with the Port of Indiana.

6. **Expansion & Retention of Business Tracking Instrument**

Commissioner DeYoung gave a brief recap of a meeting that she and the Director attended on the usefulness of a business tracking system.

7. **Business Expansion and Development in Highland**

The Director updated the Commission on business development in Highland.

**The Discussion ended at 9:22 PM.**