

**Economic Development and Community Partnerships
Strategic Planning Sub-Committee
Co-Chairs: Laura Jacobsen and George Low**

**Minutes
February 7, 2017**

Present: Joe Carpenter, Lawrence Davin, Hartig, Rhett Herman, David Horton, Laura Jacobsen, Stephanie Jennelle, Prahlad Kasturi, Jackie McNabb, Jeff Price

Not Present: Josh Carroll, Sharon Gilbert, George Low, Chris Moore, David Ridpath, Benny Skeens, Susan Trageser, Skip Watts, Erik Westervelt

Minutes taken by Nadine Hartig

- I. Minutes from 1-24-17 were approved. The minutes from the forums were approved.
- II. Plans for reaching out to regional economic development leaders, and beyond
 - a. Discussion about next steps to connect with economic development leaders
 - i. We considered inviting economic leaders to our meeting on March 14.
 - ii. Joe Carpenter has 225 names and we considered a survey approach, in the interest of time. Laura will cross check list to make sure George Low's contacts are on this list.
 - iii. We voted to move forward with the survey as we want to collect as much information as possible, as quickly as possible.
- III. Discussion about recommendations collected thus far for EDCP
 - a. Discussed how to begin organizing our next steps:
 - i. Idea to market NRV and RU as part of the NRV.
 - ii. Idea to follow up with small steps to show Radford City that we are committed to making connections with the town and heard their ideas at the forum.
 - iii. Collection of ideas: expanding arts program, marathon/sporting activities, RU West as an incubator for new businesses,
 - iv. Steps to develop ideas into strategic plan recommendations.
- IV. Next steps:
 - a. Dividing our brainstorming sessions into three areas, in order to develop more concrete ideas for the bigger strategic plan:
 - i. Networks and Alliances: February 14
 - ii. Programs: February 21
 - iii. Support Services: February 28
 - b. Survey the 225 economic leaders. Joe and Laura will create the survey and work on sending it out.