

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Clinton County Board Room

April 7, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

**Mike Rakers, Chairman**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman, Mike Rakers.

#### **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Committee Members Present: Mike Rakers, Greg Riechman and Ann Schroeder

Absent: Holly Clark

#### **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Mark Litteken, Eric Brueggemann, and Keith Kluemke, all members of the Clinton County Fair Board, were present. Mark Litteken informed the committee of the fair board's intentions to tear down the old barns at the county fairgrounds and replace them with a 120' x 450' clear span building. The building will be named the 618 Event Center. Mark noted that with the increased value of animals nowadays, people don't want to bring them to dilapidated buildings. This new building would be able to attract more agricultural events, in addition to shows, conventions, weddings, concerts, sporting events, and rodeos, just to name a few. It will also be very beneficial to the local schools and FFAs, and they could possibly bring back the Clinton County Classic. With this new facility bringing so many more people to county, Mark asked if the committee would consider contributing to the cost of the building. The committee agreed that this would be a very good way to promote tourism in the county and will make a recommendation to the full board for funding.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Greg Riechman to approve the May minutes. Ann Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- The following fishing tournaments which were approved in 2024 will be held at Carlyle Lake in 2025, with the City of Carlyle picking up half of the total cost.
  - 2-Day Crappie Tournament will be held on May 2 – 3, 2025 and will include a 1-day Amateur Division and a 2-day Semi-Pro Division. There will be a free Kids Fishing Rodeo on May 3, 2025. NCL TV Show Airing on Mid-South Broadcasting, Roku, and FireTV. Show times are Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Tuesday at 6:30 pm CST.
  - The High School & Youth Bass Tournament will be held on May 4, 2025. There will be a High School Division (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade) and a Junior Division (10 yrs old thru 8<sup>th</sup> Grade).
  - Information on the King Cat Tournament will follow.
- Discover Downstate Illinois is needing a commitment letter for fiscal year 2026. We were previously at the Silver Membership Level in 2025. Ann Schroeder will check into the different membership levels.
- Mike Rakers received a letter inquiring about putting an ad in the Clinton County Fair Book. Mike Rakers make the motion to do a \$60 half page ad. Seconded by Ann Schroeder. Motion carried.

#### **ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Greg Riechmann. Seconded by Ann Schroeder. Motion carried.