

**Rainier Economic Development Council
Work Session Minutes
September 25, 2008
6 p.m. - Rainier City Hall**

The workshop was opened at 6:14 p.m. by Vice Chair, David Qualman.

Present -

David Qualman, Terry Grice, Paul Rice, Dearl Taylor, Jennifer Dennis
Terry Deaton - REDCO Staff Administrator

Business grant guidelines were discussed. Paul Rice asked what is the criteria for approving grants. He wanted to know if it is our opinion or do we have clear guidelines. In addition, Rice would like to see REDCO adopt clearer guidelines in regard to colors, facades, signs and exteriors. Defined requirements in these areas would give REDCO the ability to make appropriate decisions when small business grants are brought before the council.

Grice voiced his was concern with city government regarding what they can and cannot do in regard to these choices and how it affects citizens. Yet at the same time, when government is granting funds to pay for improvements to a business it should have a say in what appearance these businesses present to the public.

REDCO's role is to promote economic development within Rainier's urban renewal district. Having an attractive, uniform downtown historic area and business corridor along Highway 30 is crucial to attracting businesses to Rainier. In addition, an attractive and complimentary appearance encourages people to stop and shop in Rainier.

Council members would like the City planning commission to provide REDCO with clear guidelines for their business and community grants in regards to exterior appearances. They suggested having a committee meet to clarify what is needed in order to bring it before the Planning Commission at the October meeting.

The meeting was closed at 6:57 p.m.

David Qualman, Vice Chair


Terry Deaton, REDCO Staff Administrator

