**PATTERSON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE (PEDSCO)**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

Marilyn LaSalle – director

Ryan Aucoin – Community Affairs, City of Patterson

Larry Mendoza – Patterson City Council

Dr. Rand Dooley – Committee member

Susan Mendoza – Committee member

Sandra Marshall – Committee member

Meeting came to order at 4:00. The committee discussed Louisiana’s Open Meetings Law as it pertains to them and how their meetings will change. Because their meetings are open to the public, the committee now meets at City Hall where the public could have access to attend. Also, agendas and meeting minutes are posted where the public will have access to them also. Another point that was made is that there has to be a quorum of members in order for them to make any decisions that will require action or to take a vote. Because of the need to have a quorum, members were encouraged to make every effort to attend meetings. The meetings are scheduled for the last Thursday of every month. However, there are a few times when those days will be holidays and meetings will be rescheduled or cancelled for that month. The public will be notified of all changes.

In new business, director Marilyn LaSalle informed the committee that she had spoken with Reginald about their budget, and it seems that they are starting the year with $400 more than they started out with initially because of the Christmas boat parade, which brought in $400.

The committee also discussed being in partnership with Hattie Watts and the St. Mary Parish School Board for their 5K Color Run which will be held in March. The principal, Nikki Fryou has asked Ryan Aucoin to spearhead a meeting with City, school and community reps to develop a workable plan. Susan Mendoza and Sandra Underwood informed the committee of their interest in attending that meeting because of their interest and knowledge in 5K events. Aucoin said that he would be setting up that meeting soon and would let everyone know the details of when and where.

Director LaSalle reminded everyone about the upcoming Community Center newsletter that is in development. They are soliciting articles from everyone.

Also in new business the committee discussed the activities that they will include on their roster for fiscal year 2015-2016. The boat parade and Christmas lighting will be repeated but on a larger scale, and work on the event will be starting soon. They will also plan a 5K run in the fall. Susan Mendoza will provide more information on that for the next meeting.

The committee talked briefly about the plan to start a Young Leaders sub-committee which will be chaired by Holden Murray of the Community Center. Holden will also be a new member of PEDSCO. The sub-committee will focus on young ladies and young men that are in high school, primarily in the 11th and 12th grades. The goal will be to involve those young people in city and community events which will eventually develop them into young leaders.

Meeting adjourned at 4:59.