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## REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### RDC discusses incentive idea to small businesses

By Emily Atwood  
Times Sentinel writer

As the economy is still shaky and banks continue to see some businesses as risky chances, Zionsville's Redevelopment Commission discussed offering small businesses an incentive to operate in Zionsville during their meeting Monday night, July 27.

Presented by Boone County Economic Director Dax Norton, he said there is no other tool to help smaller companies come or stay in Zionsville.

Loans and grants were discussed as possibilities, but some members were still nervous in how to go about the process.

"On the surface it sounds like a wonderful idea, but how do you administer it?" member Chris Caniff said.

RDC President Nathan Frampton also shared concerns in what the criteria for a loan or grant should be, how the commission would choose who gets the money, and how much money they should put aside for this assistance program.

Although the rules fram-

## RDC

Continued from A1

ing an incentive package have not been chosen, members did discuss the idea of only offering it to companies with 20 employees or less.

Also, the thought of giving an incentive only to those looking to fill already existing empty space was mentioned.

"I'm all for it," member Mark Plassman said. And Carol Marquiss echoed his thoughts.

"I think we should do something that shows we support all businesses," she said.

Norton said that other areas like Putnam County were offering financial assistance programs to get businesses in their area.

"I would like you all to consider it," Norton said.

Rumors also bounced around the meeting that Carmel Mayor James Brainard had come to Main Street trying to incentivize

businesses to come to his area.

It has been said that Carmel is offering free rent for a few months for stores to come there.

In other topics during the meeting, beautification projects for Main Street and First Street were discussed, but Norton asked that the commission prioritize economic development first.

"If you want to beautify the village, have vibrant businesses," he said.

Turn to RDC/A11