

KALAMAZOO COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MINUTES

MEETING DATE: Thursday, October 28, 2010
PLACE OF MEETING: County Administration Building

Present were: Joe Agostinelli, Clare Annen, Robert Barnard, Ken Peregon, Julie Rogers, Anne Summerfield, Matthew VanDyk, Thell Woods
Kalamazoo Township: George Cochran
Staff Support: David Artley, Jeff Hawkins (consultant)
Absent: Larry Baumgart, Ruth Blake, Larry Crabtree, and Representatives from Augusta and Comstock, Lotta Jarnefelt
Recording Secretary: Lori Pyatt

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson VanDyk called the meeting to order at 5:29pm.

2. MEMBERS EXCUSED

Ms. Blake, Mr. Baumgart and Mr. Crabtree were excused from the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Rogers, supported by Mr. Peregon, and unanimously passed.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the September 16th Minutes as presented was made by Mr. Woods, supported by Ms. Rogers, and unanimously approved.

5. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no comments made.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

There was nothing on the consent agenda.

7. REPORT

- a. By-Laws postponed to November; County Legal was reviewing them. Mr. VanDyk thought they group might want to reduce the 6-year term length to 3 years. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Ms. Rogers, and supported by Mr. Woods that the Brownfield and EDC Board Membership terms be changed from six years to three years.

Mr. Artley stated he would do the research to ensure this was allowed in the EDC Act and in County Policy, and would also update the Board Membership Roster with Mr. Agostinelli's information and the term dates

for each member. Discussion turned to terms of other boards, and potential reasons the EDC's terms were initially set at six years.

- b. Update from Staff on Application for RZF Projects:
The Michigan Strategic Fund had recently passed the 18 bond applications including the Bell's Brewery Project. On December 1st they would hold a special meeting to issue the bonds for these 18 bond applications: again including Bell's Brewery. Mr. Artley had an indirect conversation with South County Water and Sewer in which they were told the window had closed on the bonds they were seeking. The State exercised its claw back rights on 2/3rds of the originally allocated dollars for Recovery Zone Facility Bonds and Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds in mid-October.
- c. Economic Development Fund Program – approved by CBOC on 10/5/2010
It was suggested that, at the next meeting, the EDC appoint their representative Economic Development Fund Program's Loan Review Committee. Whoever was interested was asked to email Mr. VanDyk and Mr. Artley. This EDC Member would need to strongly represent the EDC's views in order to help smaller business owners and projects. Mr. Artley agreed to circulate the final approved policy.
- d. ACW Update – The ACW and the Event Center Committees were drafting a more structured plan before presenting it to the public again.
- e. Event Center Update - (see above)

8. OTHER:

There was nothing reported.

9. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

-Mr. Barnard hoped that the two projects would be publicized as separate from each other, because of what he heard from the general public. He also felt the public hoped the investors would be up front about their investment, what they hoped to receive as a return on their investment, and how it would benefit the community. Discussion ensued on public perception and timing. Mr. VanDyk agreed and encouraged Mr. Barnard to join the ACW campaign sub-committee.

-Mr. Woods was impressed that the ACW committee of 45 or 50 people had maintained their vision, yet he understood their reluctance to put it on the ballot because the out-county voters didn't necessarily support it.

-Mr. Annen added that out-county business owners were concerned it would draw their business away. He also thought it was important to hire from the local community for the project.

-Mr. Peregón, Mr. Agostinelli, & Mr. VanDyk thought the ACW would be positive for the community.

-Ms. Rogers reiterated her request that their representative to the Loan Review Committee be prepared to have a strong voice to present the views of the EDC.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Rogers, supported by Ms. Summerfield, and was unanimously approved at 5:57pm.

Next Meeting: November 18, 2010

Respectfully submitted: LP