

KALAMAZOO COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MINUTES

MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 27, 2010
PLACE OF MEETING: County Administration Building

Present were: Clare Annen, Robert Barnard, Ruth Blake, Leroy Crabtree, Marc Hatton, Ken Peregón, Julie Rogers, Anne Summerfield, Matthew VanDyk, Thell Woods
Excused: Larry Baumgart
Kalamazoo Township: George Cochran
Staff Support: David Artley, Jeff Hawkins (consultant), Lotta Jarnefelt
Absent: Representatives from Augusta and Comstock
Citizens: Jack Urban, County Commissioner
Recording Secretary: Lori Pyatt

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson VanDyk called the meeting to order at 5:21pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the April 2010 Minutes as presented was made by Mr. Annen, supported by Mr. Barnard and was unanimously approved.

3. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no comments made.

4. ACTION CALENDAR -

A. The group considered a funding request to develop a strategic plan to guide in developing the EDC into a useful economic development tool for the County and the County's economic development partners, including Southwest Michigan First.

A motion to approve Exhibit "A" toward this purpose was made by Mr. Annen, and supported by Mr. Crabtree subject to discussion on the amount.

Ms. Rogers suggested, in light of the memo sent by the County Administrator, that Mr. Battani be invited to a dialogue face-to-face at the next meeting, and recommended that the motion be tabled until after a meeting be held. Discussion ensued on whether the meeting should happen during a public meeting or during the scheduled Executive Committee meetings. The Board was reminded that it was the County Board of Commissioners who was in authority.

Mr. Annen withdrew his motion to approve Exhibit "A"; this procedural step was supported by Mr. Peregón and was unanimously approved.

There were no further motions related to Exhibit "A" and, functionally, it can be readdressed or not at the convenience of the EDC.

A motion to invite Mr. Battani and Mr. Faul to the June 17th EDC meeting was made by Mr. Annen, supported by Mr. Woods and was unanimously approved.

Mr. Artley stated that if the Administrators would not be able to make the June meeting, staff would contact the Chair and/or Vice-Chair.

A motion to add Mr. Battani's memo dated May 26, 2010, to the minutes was made by Ms. Rogers, supported by Mr. Crabtree, and was unanimously approved.

- B. Discussion of timing of making funding requests—since this agenda item was tie-barred to 4A):

A motion to table item 4B was made by Mr. Hatton, supported by Ms. Rogers and was unanimously approved.

- C. The group had considered the following resolution (during the Brownfield meeting: "That no matter be brought before the County & Community Resource Committee on behalf of the BRA unless there has been prior consultation and direction from on of the following, as appropriate under the circumstances: 9i) the full BRA Board if time permits, (ii) the Executive Committee if the matter requires action sooner than the next scheduled BRA Board meeting, or (iii) the Chair of the BRA in emergency situations."

A motion to approve the resolution as written was made by Mr. Woods, supported by Mr. Crabtree and was approved nine to zero (Ms. Blake was not present during the vote).

5. STAFF REPORT

- A. Applications for RZF Projects and fee generation:

- Mr. Artley would be making a presentation on RZF bonds to the County Board on June 1st.
- Extension of RZF Bonds:
 - The House passed an extension on the Recovery Zone (development and facility) bonds.
 - It appeared that the time limit would not be extended because the Senate was expected to not take the issue up. (Later, Mr. Woods shared information regarding a call he had received from Senator Levin's office indicating the extension would be passed.)
 - Build America Bonds were being extended and were being separated out of the stimulus package.

- July 1st may be the deadline to assign the bonds to particular users.
- No written applications have been submitted to the County.
- Possible Projects:
 - There were eight or ten inquiries for the facility RZ bonds, which were private (where Davis-Bacon would not apply). There were about four public entity inquiries about the economic RZ bonds (where Davis-Bacon would apply).
 - The County is still requiring of any and all interested parties to insure that the County General Fund was not put at risk.
 - There was discussion about the application process.
- Issuance Fee:
 - The local Economic Development Corporations and the Michigan Strategic Fund were the only entities able to charge fees for issuing bonds.
 - Mr. VanDyk asked that staff inform the Board when discussions were scheduled on the topic of who would issue the bonds.

B. Bylaws Revision Status –

- County Counsel was reviewing the bylaws.

C. Event Center and ACW Update –

- Meetings on both projects were still being held, and a Washington was being lobbied. Planning dollars were being raised.
- Mr. Artley expected that the ballot issue would be before the BOC again in the future (late fall or early in 2011).
- The Event Center was not put to the voters in August 2010 because a survey indicated that the initiative would be rejected by the public if on the August ballot.

D. Ron Kitchens would be attending the July 22 EDC meeting to give a presentation and discuss coordinating efforts with S.W. Michigan First.

6. LAND BANK

Mr. Crabtree reported that the Director Position was being interviewed for.

7. OTHER

Commissioner Urban was glad to hear the dialogue that evening and planned to be at the next future meetings. He cautioned the board from depending too much on the authority of the CC&R Committee because it was still in the formation stage; the Board of Commissioners was the group in authority. He encouraged them to ask the questions that will help shape their role.

8. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

-In response to a question from Mr. Peregón, Mr. Artley stated the Land Bank might be in a better position to present to the Board in the fall, after an Executive Director was in place.

-Mr. Hatton thanked staff for their efforts and hard work. Mr. Barnard, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Crabtree, Ms. Summerfield and Mr. VanDyk concurred.

-Ms. Blake thanked Commissioner Urban for his attendance.

-Mr. Woods stated had attended “Economic Development: 101” and “201” (and would be attending “301”), and was quite impressed. He also had forms for the application for RZF bonds used by other state EDC boards. His research indicated that the EDC’s in the state had only received a total of two \$5 million RZF bonds.

-Mr. Artley said he would make Mr. Wood’s documents available to the members.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, supported, and was unanimously approved at 6:24pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 17, 2010

Respectfully submitted: LP