

KALAMAZOO COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MINUTES

MEETING DATE: Thursday, January 27, 2011

PLACE OF MEETING: County Administration Building

Present were: Joe Agostinelli, Clare Annen, Larry Baumgart, Brandt Iden, Ken Peregou, Julie Rogers, Anne Summerfield, Thell Woods
Staff Support: David Artle, David Stegink for Jeff Hawkins (consultant), Lotta Jarnefelt
Absent: Ruth Blake, Leroy Crabtree, Matt VanDyk, Representatives from Augusta, Comstock and Kalamazoo
Recording Secretary: Lori Pyatt

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Woods called the meeting to order at 5:23pm.

2. MEMBERS EXCUSED

Ruth Blake, Leroy Crabtree and Matt VanDyk were excused.

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

Mr. Brandt Iden had been introduced during the BRA meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda.

Motion: Agostinelli

Support: Summerfield

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the December Minutes as presented.

Motion: Annen

Support: Rogers

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

6. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no comments made.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR/ACTION AGENDA

A. CONSIDER ADJUSTING THE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FROM MONTHLY TO QUARTERLY EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

The recent developments with SWMF's Economic Development Fund Program were discussed; the committee was still being organized. (Any loan granted would have to come back to the County Board to be voted on, otherwise information would be kept confidential.) Bank reps had been selected from PNC Bank, First National Bank of Michigan, and Consumer's Credit Union. The EDFP was explained. Hypothetical situations in which the financial representatives would have to declare

conflict of interests were discussed. Mr. Artley would send Mr. Iden the EDFP policy.

Mr. Agostinelli didn't think there would be loans awarded very frequently; monthly meetings of the EDC were probably unnecessary. Mr. Woods handed out an Upjohn Institute Power Point document showing how Kalamazoo was faring in the area of employment. He then encouraged the members to not abdicate their responsibility as a Board.

Mr. Iden raised the possible negative perception of the EDC not meeting monthly while the economy continued its recession. Ms. Rogers stated she could cover the EDC's history in more depth at a later date—she didn't see their role being expanded in the near future. She was still concerned that small businesses wouldn't be well represented in the EDFP.

A motion was made as follows:

"I move that the Kalamazoo County Economic Development Corporation regularly meet quarterly on the fourth Thursday of the month in the months of January, April, July and October. And will be posted accordingly. Special meeting may be called as needed."

Motion: Agostinelli Support: Baumgart

Discussion ensued on the possibility of meetings be held when needed, or continuing meeting monthly even if for five minutes.

The show of hands was as follows:

Ayes: All Present (except Woods) Nays: Woods

Absent: Blake, Crabtree, VanDyk

Abstained: None

Motion Carried

8. REPORTS

A. BY-LAWS

The by-laws were approved by the CBOC on January 17th. No wording had been changed before the CBOC approved the by-laws.

B. EDFP UPDATE

Nothing further was reported.

C. ACW UPDATE

There was a concerted effort on the steering committee to consolidate the thinking and ideas. There would be a long meeting in February to answer the questions that have been posed. The March 18th meeting would unveil the draft vision, which would be revealed publicly thereafter. It was clarified that this had nothing to do with the County.

D. EVENT CENTER

This was on the strategic calendar of the County Board and would come up for discussion during the year.

9. OTHER

There was nothing reported.

10. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

-Ms. Rogers echoed a previous comment by Mr. Iden, saying it was unfortunate that the EDC's role had been watered down in light of the current economic condition.

-Mr. Woods hoped that the County would recognize the benefit of working through the EDC.

-Mr. Baumgart agreed with Ms. Rogers regarding her concern for small businesses.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:44pm.

Motion: Peregón

Support: Annen

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NEXT:
ANNUAL MEETING, Thursday, APRIL 28TH after the BRA Meeting.

Respectfully submitted: LP