

KALAMAZOO COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MINUTES

MEETING DATE: Thursday, June 17, 2010
PLACE OF MEETING: County Administration Building

Present were: Clare Annen, Robert Barnard, Larry Baumgart, Ruth Blake, Leroy Crabtree, Marc Hatton, Ken Peregon, Julie Rogers, Anne Summerfield, Matthew VanDyk, Thell Woods
Staff Support: David Artley, Jeff Hawkins (consultant), Lotta Jarnfelt
Absent: Representatives from Augusta and Comstock
Citizens: Connie Ferguson
Recording Secretary: Julie Freeman

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson VanDyk called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

2. MEMBERS EXCUSED

None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the June 17, 2010 agenda, as presented, was made by Ms. Blake, supported by Ms. Rogers and was unanimously approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the May 27, 2010, minutes as presented was made by Mr. Woods, supported by Mr. Crabtree and was unanimously approved.

5. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no comments made.

6. DISCUSSION

A discussion began between the Economic Development Corporation and Central County Administration, Peter Battani, Administrator and John Faul, Deputy Administrator relating to the role of the EDC. Chair VanDyk began the discussion by reading a memo from the EDC in response to the memo sent by the County Administrator and Deputy County Administrator on May 26, 2010.

Mr. Battani reported that he would attempt to communicate the issues the Administration has. Much discussion on the relationship between the EDC and the County, Mr. Battani stated that he is responsible to the staff that is loaned to EDC.

Mr. VanDyk feels there has been some miscommunication regarding the funding for the EDC. He stated the EDC isn't asking for bonds as this point but there is a process that needs to take place before the EDC can act and

would like to get things in order to be ready to help when the time comes. He feels it is important to get a third party consultant to assist.

Mr. Annen is concerned regarding the happenings of Southwest Michigan First and feels it is very important to hire a consultant with economic development expertise to assist the EDC as it explores the options available to local economic development corporations.

Mr. Faul noted that there has been some miscommunication regarding EDC's purpose at this time. He stated that everything EDC is doing is very much appreciated. Mr. Battani questioned the committee as to what other tools would be available? He also stated that he is extremely cautious when it becomes a risk to the county.

Mr. Crabtree commented he is looking for an opportunity to serve but if there is not a spot for the EDC in the county than he feels the committee should dissolve.

Mr. Woods noted that there are 27 towns with Economic Development Corporations all over the state. Most of these EDC's are doing nothing at this point. He also stated a lot of things can be done in the county and everything does not necessarily cost money.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Rogers thanked Mr. Battani and Mr. Faul for coming to the meeting and she would like the county to re-examine these issues and would also like to get someone with some tools to better assist the EDC.

Mr. VanDyk concluded meeting by thanking Mr. Battani and Mr. Faul for attending the meeting and stated that this was a start to a good discussion on the Economic Development Corporation.

7. ACTION AGENDA

Because of time, Chair VanDyk responded that he will be skipping over the tabled motions at this time. No purpose to remove them at the present time.

8. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Artley briefly reviewed the staff reports. He stated that the Event Center will be brought before the County Board. He also reiterated that Ron Kitchens will attend the July 22 EDC meeting to discuss ways which Southwest Michigan First and Economic Development Corporation can work together.

9. LAND BANK

Mr. Crabtree reported places the phased gardens have done very well. Mr. VanDyk for Land Bank to go on the Brownfield Development agenda. Mr. Artley stated that he would move the EDC over to the BRA agenda for the next meeting.

10. OTHER

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Summerfield feels that the role of the EDC is nothing more than infrastructure. She questioned if the by-laws will have an objective. Mr. VanDyk feels that the EDC does have an objective.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: JF