

KALAMAZOO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Board of Directors Meeting
MINUTES

MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:00 p.m.
PLACE OF MEETING: Room 207A, County Administration Building

Present: Joe Agostinelli, Larry Baumgart, Ruth Blake, Brandt Iden, Ken Peregon, Julie Rogers, Anne Summerfield, Thell Woods

Excused: Clare Annen, Matt VanDyk, Andy Wenzel

Kalamazoo Township: George Cochran

Presenter: Jill Bland, SWMI First

Community: Mary Brown, David Harn-MDEQ

Staff Support: David Artley, Jeff Hawkins (Envirologic)

Minutes: Janet Jones

1. CALL TO ORDER: Thell Woods called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. in the absence of Chairman Matt Van Dyk
2. MEMBERS EXCUSED: Clare Annen, Matt Van Dyk, Andy Wentzel
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Peregon moved and Summerfield seconded approval of the agenda Motion. Carried.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Agnostelli moved and Baumgart seconded approval of the minutes of the July 28, 2011 meeting.
 - 4a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 23, 2012 meeting minutes. Cochran asked that the minutes reflect the fact that he was in attendance at the meeting. Rogers moved & Summerfield seconded approval of minutes as amended. Motion Carried.
5. CITIZENS COMMENTS: None
6. MEDC REORGANIZATION: Jill Bland of SWMI First presented information about the reorganization of the EDC regions which combined 5 previous departments into one reporting Executive Group for Economic Development. This simplifies activities for the regions as they work through the government processes. SWMI First is the non-profit organization that coordinates Region 6 including 7 Counties in the SW corner of the state and for some functions, includes Allegan County.
SWMI First facilitates business development and partnerships with local EDC offices, educational & training facilities, businesses, and other pertinent entities to increase jobs and businesses in the region.
Artley requested that SWMI First return to the Kalamazoo EDC quarterly meetings to provide updates.
7. ACTION AGENDA: none
8. REPORTS
 - a. EDFP: Artley reported that the EDC committees discussed Project Daisy and the potential projects on North Pitcher as well as the Portage Road project near Centre Street where a Brew Pub is being proposed. Bland added that Kalamazoo will be notified

soon about the Project Daisy award decision. Agostinelli added that the Project Daisy developer has changed from asking for a loan to requesting the loan be forgivable upon successful completion of the contract with EDC.

- b. ACW Update: This committee is on summer break. Nothing significant to report
 - c. Event Center: no new information
 - d. Kalamazoo Area Building Authority: Artley reported that the KABA resulted from townships in Kalamazoo County working together with building inspection departments to make shared decisions for enforcing the building codes; these shared activities lead to increased efficiency and reduced costs. Kalamazoo, Comstock, and Oshtemo townships have signed an MOU that was filed with the State of Michigan resulting in partial funding from the State to KABA for shared technical equipment to facilitate their work. Representatives elected by the Townships to form the authority are George Cochran from Kalamazoo Township, Lee Larson from Oshtemo, and Randy Thompson from Comstock. The first meeting is 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 23 at Kalamazoo Township Hall. Cochran added other details about the functioning of the authority and how the entities will work together. Updates on the progress of this Authority will be on future EDC agendas. Note: this is a new model for cooperation among governmental entities in Michigan.
9. Other: Those interested in serving as an officer for the coming year should contact David Artley. Those members not interested in serving in an office will form the nominating committee. Meetings will be arranged by e-mail.
10. Board Member Comments: None
11. Adjournment: Rogers moved and Peregon seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:12.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 26, 2012 – Annual Meeting