
CITY OF KALAMAZOO
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY
Wednesday, May 16, 2012 - 7:30 a.m. • Southwest Michigan Innovation Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Bland; Michael Collins; Joan Dombrowski; Kenneth Harnden; Alexander Lee; Bob Miller; Doug Phillips; Tom Skrobola; Gary Start

MEMBERS ABSENT: Claire Eager; Tim Rogowski

CITY STAFF/OTHERS PRESENT: John Kneas (Assistant City Attorney); Tonya Sloan (Administrative Secretary); Rob DeWit (SMIC)

Meeting was called to order at 7:32 a.m. by Chair Miller

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Phillips moved approval of the agenda; supported by Mr. Skrobola. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2011: Mr. Lee moved approval of the minutes; supported by Mr. Collins. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011: Mr. Skrobola reviewed the activity during the period. Mr. Skrobola moved approval of the financial statements; supported by Ms. Bland. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF A RECOMMENDATION BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS FOR THE 2012-2013 PROGRAM YEAR: CHAIR - JILL BLAND; VICE-CHAIR - DOUG PHILLIPS; SECRETARY/TREASURER - JOAN DOMBROWSKI: Mr. Collins moved approval of the officers as recommended; supported by Mr. Harnden. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

Ms. Bland assumed control of the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

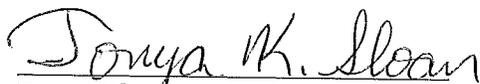
BTR PARK UPDATE: Mr. Miller stated that Roselyn Zator was asked to testify before the state legislature and asked all SmartZones to prepare three paragraphs. He distributed what was submitted for Kalamazoo. The light posts within the park will be scraped and painted this week. The Granite Park building was sold and is now owned by Weidenhammer. There are discussions regarding creating an incubator in the park where it would be possible to have a workstation and conference room access without having an office. In addition, five different deals are being discussed, two of which would involve new construction.

SMIC UPDATE: Mr. DeWit indicated that the SMIC's occupancy is currently at 75% for labs and over 90% for offices. With the economy picking up, things have stabilized for the companies. A new company has moved in, and another new group should be in by July 1. A \$600,000 grant was received from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to expand the services of the core lab and create an online laboratory safety manual. An additional \$100,000 grant was used to buy instrumentation. The Small Business & Technology Development Center has started the Business Accelerator Fund, which he will be administering.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: Ms. Bland stated that the State of Michigan is changing how we do economic development. They have broken the state into ten regions, and our region consists of eight counties. Southwest Michigan First has held approximately 20 sessions throughout the region to determine the priorities and develop a strategy. This area has the lowest unemployment rate in Michigan. We are receiving quite a bit of interest from Germany, and recently landed our first German deal in a long time – an orchid firm that will locate in Midlink. We recently had a Japanese biotech company visit the area and they were very impressed. The former American Greetings building is now home to Maine Plastics and Imperial Beverage.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Ms. Bland indicated that the next board meeting is currently scheduled to be held on November 21, 2012. Because that is the day before Thanksgiving, the consensus of the board members was that the meeting should be held one week earlier on November 14, 2012 instead.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:23 a.m.


Tonya Sloan, Recording Secretary

Jill Bland, Chair