
CITY OF KALAMAZOO
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY

Wednesday, November 14, 2012 - 7:30 a.m. • Southwest Michigan Innovation Center

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Rogowski

CITY COMMISSIONERS/CITY STAFF/OTHERS PRESENT: Jerome Kisscorni (Executive Director of the EDC); John Kneas (Assistant City Attorney); Tonya Sloan (Administrative Secretary); Madelyn Pinder (SMIC)

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

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2012: Mr. Lee moved approval of the minutes; supported by Mr. Collins. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED 2013 LDFA BUDGET AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION: Mr. Kisscorni stated that Mr. Skrobola informed him yesterday that the LDFA has a deficit reduction plan with the state which calls for the repayment of the money that the city fronted for the improvements to Parkview and Drake by the end of 2013. As a result, the proposed budget needed to be revised to defer some of the other expenses. Mr. Kisscorni distributed and reviewed the new proposed 2013 budget. Mr. Skrobola will contact the state after this morning's meeting to obtain their approval of the deficit reduction plan. Mr. Miller noted that the proposed new budget contains \$5,000 for BTR Park marketing, where the original budget allocated \$7,500. Mr. Skrobola responded that the change was unintentional and can be reversed. Mr. Miller moved approval of the budget as revised; supported by Mr. Harnden. Motion approved by roll call vote unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SMIC UPDATE: Ms. Pinder indicated that the SMIC is at 72% occupancy. Two new companies have moved in since the last LDFA meeting. A media event was held yesterday to announce the new web site for Launch MI Lab, which is the new name for the core lab. An open house for scientists was held in October, with a great turnout and great responses. Events are being planned for the SMIC's 10-year anniversary.

BTR PARK UPDATE: Mr. Miller indicated that two new companies will be joining the park – Lynx Network Group and Mophie. The Fleis & VandenBrink building is now full and a new building will be built for Mophie. The SmartZone sign has been replaced with the Pure Michigan SmartZone logo. The Michigan Corporate Relations Network has been formed, which is a way for companies to work with Michigan’s research universities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: Mr. Kisscorni stated that the Economic Development department has lost two staff members through the city’s Early Retirement Incentive program, and Ms. Sloan will leave at the end of 2013. As a result, the city will enter into a contract with Southwest Michigan First for economic development services. There has been a lot of interest by developers in downtown housing, and there has been more interest in our downtown brownfield sites also. Ms. Bland reported that American Axle in Three Rivers added 400 jobs to their facility. Lines that had gone to Mexico have come back. Graphic Packaging, Stryker, Mueller Plastics and Summit Polymers are all expanding. Workforce continues to be a challenge, so a consortium has been formed to increase the skill levels of employees entering the work force.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Ms. Bland announced that the next board meeting will be held on May 15, 2013.

DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS

Ms. Dombrowski invited the board members to attend Parkview Hills’ tree lighting ceremony November 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:30 a.m.



Tonya Sloan, Recording Secretary



Jill Bland, Chair