
CITY OF KALAMAZOO
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY
Wednesday, November 20, 2013 - 7:30 a.m. • Southwest Michigan Innovation Center

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kenneth Harnden

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF May 15, 2013: Mr. Lee moved approval of the minutes; supported by Ms. Dombrowski. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2013: Mr. Kisscorni reviewed the activity during the period. Mr. Phillips moved approval of the financial statements; supported by Mr. Lee. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Proposed 2014 LDFA Budget and Recommendation to the City Commission. Mr. Kisscorni directed discussion through the 2014 proposed budget recommendations. Mr. Kisscorni noted the marketing funds for SMIC, and stated looking forward to 2016 that the balance should increase. He informed the board that they should start thinking ahead for future projects. Mr. Kisscorni also informed the board of tax abatements that would drop off through 2014 and 2015. Mr. Skrobola informed the board of new projects that would include taxes to include new structures. Mr. Miller informed the board of the upcoming opportunities for use of the Innovation Center. **Mr. Lee moved approval of the officers as recommended; supported by Mr. Miller. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.**

Old Business

None

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SMIC UPDATE: Mr. DeWit stated that the SMIC's 10th anniversary is this year. He informed the board that they are focused on finding entrepreneurs. Mr. DeWit stated that they had met with local companies to gauge interests and explore ways they could interact with the new WMU School of Medicine.

KVCC UPDATE: Mr. Collins greeted the board and informed them of the upcoming Healthy Living Campus in the downtown Kalamazoo area. He stated the facility would be located close to both the local hospitals as well as the WMU School of Medicine. Mr. Collins provided an overview of the vision they campus would take on, to include food growth, production and distribution.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: Ms. Bland stated that Newell Rubbermaid was moving forward and would like to open/start in the spring of 2014. Mr. Kisscorni provided the board an overview of the projects on Stadium and Drake. Mr. Kisscorni also informed the board of numerous projects with specific focus on the Arcadia Ales project that should be opening in the spring of 2014. Ms. Bland used the partnership with Renaissance Zones in Kalamazoo and Comstock as an example of partnership and encouraged the board to seek more opportunities throughout the region.

**** Mr. Phillips took over as Chair ****

BTR PARK UPDATE: Mr. Miller reported that the Newell Rubbermaid project will create between 100 and 125 local jobs. He informed the board that the global HQ for production and design could have implications on programs at WMU, and that they will be coordinating efforts to maximize success. Mr. Miller stated that the MOFI project had been delayed, but was hopeful that they would break ground in the summer of 2014. Mr. Miller was encouraged by the fact that companies were expanding and looking for space. Lastly, Mr. Miller informed the board that the student incubator for startups had moved to a downtown location.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Mr. Phillips announced that the next board meeting will be held on May 21, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:29 a.m.



Martin N. Markos, Recording Secretary



Jill A. Bland, Chair