
CITY OF KALAMAZOO
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY
Wednesday, May 21, 2014 - 7:30 a.m. • Southwest Michigan Innovation Center

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Skrobola

CITY COMMISSIONERS/CITY STAFF/OTHERS PRESENT: Jerome Kisscorni (Executive Director of the EDC); John Kneas (Assistant City Attorney); 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 November 20, 2013: Mr. Phillips moved approval of the minutes; supported by Mr. Collins. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING PERIOD 13 & MARCH 2014: Mr. Kisscorni reviewed the activity during the period. Mr. Collins moved approval of the financial statements; supported by Ms. Dombrowski. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSIDERATION OF A RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS FOR THE 2014-2015 PROGRAM YEAR: CHAIR AS DOUG PHILLIPS; VICE-CHAIR AS JOAN DOMBROWSKI; SECRETARY/TREASURER AS TOM SKROBOLA. Ms. Bland explained to the board that the current Chair's terms were set to expire and the rationale behind the nominations. **Mr. Phillips moved approval of the officers as recommended; supported by Mr. Miller. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.**

2. CONSIDERATION OF A RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND THE 2014 LDFA BUDGET TO INCREASE "REIMBURSEMENT FOR WMU BTR PARK INFRASTRUCTURE" FROM \$19,852 TO \$20,500. Mr. Kisscorni provided an overview behind the increased numbers for the project. He stated this was an accurate assessment of the project needs. **Mr. Miller moved approval of the increase; supported by Mr. Phillips. Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Old Business

Board Make Up: Mr. Kisscorni explained that going forward, the board make up will remain relatively the same. Mr. Kneas stated that the board can request that the city increase board member term limits due to the potential that the LDFA board will disband.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SMIC UPDATE: Dr. DeWit stated that the current occupancy of the labs is at 80% and office space at 74%. He informed the group that Genemarkers has graduated from the facility and will move to downtown Kalamazoo. Dr. DeWit stated that they had been in contact with the WMU School of Medicine and will work closely with them on how they can incorporate into their programs. He also stated that recently held their 10 year event which focused on looking forward to their next 10 years.

BTR PARK UPDATE: Mr. Miller reported that recently the Newell Rubbermaid project had their ribbon cutting and will place 80-90 jobs in the local area and should increase towards the 100 mark soon. Mr. Miller stated that this was an excellent partnership between all parties involved.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: Ms. Bland stated that Mophie was getting ready for a potential move to BTR Park and that companies Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet would also move facilities within Kalamazoo. Ms. Bland reported that it seem that Kalamazoo is running out of buildings and they are looking for options as well as different strategies. Ms. Bland stated that there has been a shift from companies looking to lease towards looking to own. Ms. Bland informed the group that there still seems to be a gap in the entry level workforce in the area and that they were starting a program (Lead the Way) with 6 local middle schools that allow children hands on experience and opportunities that they are normally not provided. She also stated that they hope to expand the scope of the program to 12 schools within the next year and that they were looking for more companies to support the project. Mr. Kisscorni addressed the board and informed them that the City of Kalamazoo ED was working with numerous companies on potential projects as well as the current projects they have moving forward. Mr. Kneas informed the board that the grant for the KVCC Health Focused Campus had been approved by the state.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Ms. Bland announced that the next board meeting will be held on November 19, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:36 a.m.



Martin N. Markos, Recording Secretary



Jill Bland, Chair