
**CITY OF KALAMAZOO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Thursday, April 16, 2015 - 7:30 a.m. • Community Room, City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nathan Bolton; Fritz Brown; Jim Escamilla; Kevan Hess; John MacKenzie; Barb Miller; Bob Miller; Patti Owens; Nancy Troff

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barb Miller; Doug Phillips; Tom Schlueter

CITY COMMISSIONERS/CITY STAFF PRESENT: Jerome Kisscorni (Assistant City Manager); Marc Hatton (Development Manager); Eric Kemmer (Redevelopment Coordinator); Martin Markos (Executive Assistant); John Kneas (City Attorney)

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chair Brown

MOTION TO EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: Ms. Owens moved to excuse all absent members; supported by Ms. Troff. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF November 20, 2014: Ms. Owens moved approval of the minutes; supported by Ms. Troff. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE EDC END OF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Mr. Kisscorni provided line by line explanations of the financials pointing out that everything was straight forward with no surprises. Mr. Kisscorni also gave a brief overview of how the revenue committee will work. **Financial statements were approved unanimously via roll call vote.**

NEW BUSINESS

Southwest Michigan First Report. Ms. Bland from SMF introduced herself to the board. She stated that the biggest challenge for Southwest Michigan is a skills shortage (both soft and hard). Ms. Bland said that SMF has partnered with numerous groups and counties for programs that would help build the potential pool. It was reported that Graphic Packaging was awarded \$451K from Consumers for energy packaging success; Ms. Bland encouraged more companies to do the same. Ms. Bland pointed out that Makers Mart/Catalyst was a big success this year and that the 5 finalist were all Kalamazoo companies. Finally, Ms. Bland pointed out the success story of Flow Serve, a company that was possibly going to move in 2003, but now has grown to over 450 full time employees and 23 internships.

Consideration of a recommendation by the nominating committee to approve the EDC officers for the 2015 program year as follows: Fritz Brown (Chair), Tom Schlueter (Vice Chair), Doug Phillips (Secretary/Treasurer). Mr. Kisscorni stated that the normal time for officer appointments was 2 years, and this would mark the end of the first year for all officer terms. Ms. Troff moved to approve the recommendation to approve the EDC officers for the 2015 BRA program year; Supported by Ms. Owens. Motion approved by roll call vote unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT: 8:00 a.m.



Martin N. Markos, Recording Secretary



Fritz Brown, Chair

Tom Schlueter