

Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

February 1, 2021 | 1 p.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

| Member | Term Expires | Present/Absent |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| Randall Peat, Chair | BOC Appointed | Present |
| Tom Stanek, Vice Chair | 2/13/2021 | Present |
| Rodney Dragicevich, Board Member | 2/13/2026 | Present |
| Carrie Trover, Board Member | 3/13/2024 | Present |
| Ken Ratzlaff, Board Member | 2/13/2024 | Absent |
| Jim Warner, Board Member | 2/13/2022 | Present |
| Mike Toth, Board Member | 2/13/2022 | Present |
| Jeff Hannan, Finance Chair | 2/13/2024 | Absent |
| Zachary Morris, Secretary | 2/13/2024 | Present |
| Paul Schincariol, Board of Commissioners Representative | BOC Appointed | Absent |

Others in attendance:

- Andrew Johansson, Senior Project Manager at Antero Group
- Mark O'Reilly, Kinexus Business Account Manager
- Richard Godfrey, Chairman of the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners
- Sarah Snoeyink, Economic Development Coordinator

Call to Order

Randall Peat, chair of the board, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Tom Stanek moved to approve the agenda. Rodney Dragicevich supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 4, 2020 Meeting

Tom Stanek moved to approve the ~~November 2, 2020~~ January 4, 2021 meeting minutes. Rodney Dragicevich supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Guest Speaker: Andrew Johansson, Senior Project Manager at Antero Group

Andrew Johansson provided an overview of the Mattawan Site Readiness Project including how the schedule has been adjusted to accommodate the COVID-19 pandemic, site concept maps, and how to attract businesses to the site. Mr. Johansson invited the board to provide feedback regarding the proposed site concepts. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of adding retail and small office spaces on or near the property to add value to the area, the importance of having geotechnical and environmental research data available to potential site developers, and the promising findings of that research.

Guest Speaker: Mark O'Reilly, Business Accounts Manager at Michigan Works!

Mark O'Reilly shared an update on the Going PRO Talent Fund including the fact that close to \$600,000 in grants have been secured for 17 local businesses, which will allow for job training and hiring new individuals within Van Buren County.

Review and Approval of Invoices

Zach Morris reviewed an invoice from the Antero Group. Randy Peat moved to approve the invoice. Mike Toth seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Update on County Strategic Fund Status

Zach Morris provided an overview of the County Strategic Fund and shared that his proposal for the fund had been approved by the Board of Commissioners. Randall Peat emphasized the fact that the proposal was approved unanimously. Discussion followed regarding the timeline for rolling out the County Strategic Fund and the need to develop policies in conjunction with the Board of Commissioners to govern how the fund will be managed and loans will be made.

Open Issues

Van Buren County Economic Development Dashboard Review

Zach Morris shared an overview of the dashboard, which included sharing that he should be able to announce three big projects in the coming month.

Review Financial Reports

Zach Morris reviewed current balance of the fund and other relevant details including an update regarding the delinquent status of two current loans. Discussion followed regarding next steps to take to bring delinquent loans current.

Other Business

Market Van Buren Elevator Pitch

Sarah Snoeyink shared the elevator pitch for Market Van Buren. Randall Peat requested that the elevator pitch be shared with the board of commissioners.

Palisades Update

Zach Morris shared that Market Van Buren is working with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission to secure an Economic Development Administration grant that would fund the development of plan to counter the impact of Palisades closing. Further discussion followed regarding next steps and Market Van Buren's role in implementation of the plan that would come out of the Economic Development Administration grant.

Adjournment

Jim Warner moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom Stanek supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is March 1, 2021 at 1 p.m. The meeting will be held via Zoom.



Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board

Mar 3, 2021

Date






2021 February - Economic Development Corporation - Minutes

Final Audit Report

2021-03-03

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Created: | 2021-03-03 |
| By: | Sarah Snoeyink (snoeyinks@marketvanburen.org) |
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