



IRONWOOD

MICHIGAN | *Find Your North*

Proceedings of the Economic Development Corporation Meeting Wednesday, January 4, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was held on Wednesday, January 4, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. in the Women's Club Room, Second Floor of the Municipal Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood, Michigan.

1. Chair Wyssling called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Recording of the Roll

MEMBER	Present		EXCUSED	NOT EXCUSED
	YES	NO		
Thorsen, Gina	X			
Lemke, Joseph		X		
Korpela, Nancy	X			
Sclafani, Velda	X			
Ramme, Dave		X		
Ruppe, Mark	X			
Vacant				
Schonberg, Bob	X			
Wyssling, John	X			
Gary Burnett	X			
Jon Parker		X		
Quorum	7	3	Quorum	

Also Present: Community Development Director Tom Bergman and Community Development Assistant Tim Erickson

3. Approval of the December 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Korpela to accept the December 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes. **Second** by Ruppe.

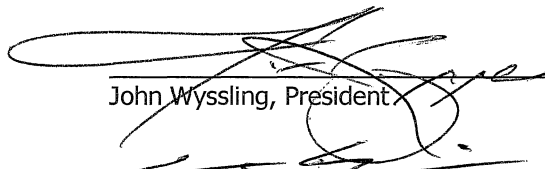
Motion Carried 7 to 0.


4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Korpela to accept the Agenda. **Second** by Sclafani. **Motion Carried 7 to 0.**

5. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding Items on the Agenda (Three-minute limit): None.
6. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding items not on the Agenda (Three-minute limit): Marion True discussed the need for the importance of jobs in the community and he discussed some possible opportunities or resources that may be overlooked.
7. Items for Discussion and Consideration
 - A. Comprehensive Plan Implementation Status of Priority Action Items:
 - I. Strategy 6.2 Develop Business-Supportive Zoning and Regulatory Environment – All Members
 1. Director Bergman discussed the need to trim down or refocus the priority action items. He also suggested that the EDC remove this item from the Agenda until the item is in production.
 - II. Strategy 6.3(b) Improve the City's Revolving Loan Fund Program – Burnett, Wyssling
 1. Director Bergman has a meeting with Dale Cook from Northern Initiatives and he was asking for direction on the program. Chair Wyssling discussed that it could be a supplemental program for starter businesses and Burnett discussed the need for the program.
 - III. Strategy 6.2(b) Implement Endowment Fund Program for Economic Development
 1. The item was discussed and will be placed on the CIP.
 - IV. Strategy 6.3(c) Continue the Business Mentorship Program – Lemke, Parker, Ruppe
 1. Chair Wyssling discussed the programs intent.
 - V. Strategy 6.3(d) Continue with the Business Retention Program – All Members
 1. Thorsen discussed her desire to change the program.
 - VI. Strategy 6.3(g & h) Develop/Continue a Business Incubator and Entrepreneurial Support Spaces – Korpela
 1. Korpela discussed creating a preliminary draft, the retail TMA was discussed.
 - VII. Strategy 6.4 Develop training/vocational programs to fill workforce needs – All Members
 1. Director Bergman discussed the intent to attract workers, interns or entrepreneurs.
 - VIII. Strategy 6.6(c) Develop a shop local/hospitality campaign – Parker, Schonberg, Thorsen
 1. Schonberg discussed the Jack Frost Cash. Director Meyers discussed that the day of the Jack Frost Parade will change from Friday to Saturday to be able to create more commercial activities and events throughout the day.
 - IX. Strategy 6.6(e) Create a 5-year marketing plan – Sclafani, Thorsen
 1. Erickson discussed the previous meeting and the next steps of identifying assets as the next step of the plan.

- X. Strategy 6.7(a) Establish annual speaker series - Lemke, Parker, Ramme
 - 1. Bergman asked the EDC what they felt their role should be. The EDC discussed the program and decided to revisit it at the next meeting.
 - XI. Strategy 6.3(f) Expansion of Fiber throughout community
 - 1. Director Bergman discussed that he has been in contact with the Merritt network and will have an update at the next meeting.
8. Other Business: Burnett asked Meyers if he knows the occupancy rate for the motels and they discussed some problems with the state.
9. Next Meeting: February 1, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
10. Adjournment. **Motion** by Schonberg to adjourn at 11:13 a.m. **Second** by Ruppe. **Motion Carried 7 to 0.**


John Wyssling, President


Tim Erickson, Community Development Assistant

For John
2/1/17