



IRONWOOD

MICHIGAN | *Find Your North*

Proceedings of the Economic Development Corporation Meeting Wednesday, February 5, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2019 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		X
Korpela, Nancy	X			
Sclafani, Velda	X			
Ramme, Dave	X			
Ruppe, Mark	X			
Schonberg, Bob		X	X	
Wyssling, John	X			
Gary Burnett		X	X	
Quorum	6	2	Quorum	

Also Present: Community Development Strategist Tim Erickson.

3. Approval of the January 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes:
Motion by Ruppe to accept the January 9, 2019 meeting minutes. **Second** by Korpela. **Motion Carried 6 to 0.**
4. Approval of the Agenda
Motion by Korpela to accept the Agenda. **Second** by Thorsen. **Motion Carried 6 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): None.

7. Items for Discussion and Consideration:

A. Discussion of Goals.

I. Director Bergman discussed a meeting that he had with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Redevelopment Ready Communities program. He recommended that the EDC identify RRC sites as a goal. He also suggested the need for a downtown TIF district as a goal. Korpela asked if the EDC could look at the Comprehensive Plan and look at updating goals and strategies. Korpela suggested to let people know what the City has accomplished in the Comprehensive Plan. Bergman discussed a joint meeting with the Planning Commission and the public.

B. Redevelopment Ready Communities – Potential strategies for redevelopment.

I. Update on certification. – Zoning ordinance revision and Recreational Marijuana.
1. Director Bergman stated that the advisory committee has met to discuss marijuana. He stated that the committee has been very thoughtful and thorough. He stated that the focus is on land use.

C. Update by John Wyssling on County Finance Committee meeting on January 23rd.

I. Wyssling gave an update on the meeting. He stated that it was a very good meeting and that there were very good questions that we were asked. The County Board is requesting support from the municipalities and townships within the county. There was discussion to make it a public private partnership.

D. Comprehensive Plan Implementation Status of Priority Action Items:

I. Strategy 6.2(b) Implement Endowment Fund Program for Economic Development.

1. Update on Economic Feasibility Study and Strategic Plan (upcoming visit by Consultant).

a. Director Bergman will be meeting with the consultant and giving him some direction. He talked about creating a presentation based from this plan to present to the County board.

II. Strategy 6.3(g & h) Develop/Continue a Business Incubator and Entrepreneurial Support Spaces – Skillbuilder Event “How to Maximize Social Media Outreach” Invent@NMU.

1. Director Bergman stated that Invent@NMU is looking at doing an event about how to maximize social media outreach. He also discussed the kiosk which is currently located at Contrast Coffee.

The City met with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and Bergman stated that the City is getting more pro forma training, which will help with utilizing MEDC funding.

He discussed a few projects with the MEDC and some new funding options through the MEDC.

III. Strategy 6.4 Create internship/apprenticeship program with local business to market to colleges and trade schools.

1. Discussion of Northern Initiatives Project with GCC (survey)

a. Director Bergman stated that the survey is being evaluated and will be discussed at the next meeting.


8. Other Business: Ruppe asked about doing a visit at the new Excel Energy building. Director Bergman mentioned that the City has received the Site Plan for Waupaca Foundry which will be complete by July 1st. The Corporation discussed the new hemp factory and that the building isn't located in the industrial park, which disqualifies it from receiving tax credits.

9. Next Meeting: March 6, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

10. Adjournment. **Motion** by Ruppe to adjourn at 10:43 a.m. **Second** by Korpela. **Motion Carried 6 to 0.**



John Wyssling, President



Tim Erickson, Community Development Assistant

