



**Proceedings of the Economic Development Corporation Meeting
Wednesday, June 4, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was held on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. in the Women's Club Room.

1. Director Bergman 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	X	
Vacant				
Lehto, Steve	X			
Meyer, Michael	X			
Corcoran, Kim		X	X	
Raush, Ken		X	X	
Virshek, Danielle	X			
Ackerman-Behr, Glen	X			
Libby, Carolyn	X			
Quorum	5	3	Quorum	

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

3. Approval of the May 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Ackerman-Behr to accept the meeting minutes. Second by Virshek. Motion Carried 5 to 0.

4. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion by Ackerman-Behr to approve the agenda. Second by Lehto. Motion Carried 5 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): Monica Bessen with GGC talked about the summer youth programming.
7. Items for Discussion and Consideration.

- A. Housing – Review of Strategic Housing Plan and Recommendations: Kevin Clarke with HKGI presented the document. Ackerman-Behr mentioned sending or asking for letters of recommendation and collaboration to entities identified in the action items. Reorganizing the Action Plan items according to importance was recommended. Staff will have reorganization as part of the next meeting agenda.

Motion by Ackerman-Behr to recommend adoption of the Strategic Housing Plan as presented. Second by Lehto. All in favor. Motion Carried 5 to 0.

- B. Hope Animal Shelter and Gogebic County Industrial Park Lot Request: Director Bergman presented the request along with the property map. Ackerman-Behr asked about what would be available if a business wanted to move into the industrial park. Director Bergman discussed underutilized privately owned properties as options. Having large employment next to the downtown in order to get specific state funding was talked about.

Motion by Ackerman-Behr to recommend that the City sell this property to Gogebic County and the residential owner to the East. Second by Lehto. All in favor. Motion Carried 5 to 0.

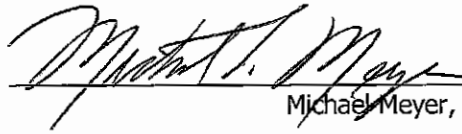
- C. 2025 Goal Strategies: Staff has met with a residential developer to discuss state programming. Donating an infill lot to the college for a new house was discussed. The regional EDO discussion is happening with the state. Staff will be reviewing surplus property sites. Ambassadorship program has not update. Removing the prioritization of goals was suggested. Having marketing materials for surplus properties was requested from Meyer.

- Facilitate placement of new home (12 months).
- Regional EDO (ongoing multiyear, regional effort).
- Access to Surplus Property Information (12 months).
- Vacant Property Analysis (12 months).
- Ambassadorship program.
- Prioritization of goals.

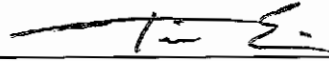
8. Other Business: 210 S. Suffolk Street Update: The MEDC is contracted with OHM to conduct a cost analysis for the stabilization of the property. Ackerman-Behr discussed a program completes the degree that they are studying. 7 people were hosted in Ironwood and their perspectives of the area were asked. The barriers were: housing, amenities outside of natural elements, and places to eat. The students liked: land affordability, low crime rate, sense of community, not as busy of an area, winter activities, scenery, less competition to explore careers, friendliness, cleanliness, associates degrees can be enough education to thrive here.

9. Next Meeting: July 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

10. Adjournment. **Motion** by Lehto to adjourn at 11:11 a.m. **Second** by Ackerman-Behr. **Motion Carried 5 to 0.**



Michael Meyer, President



Tim Erickson, Community Development Assistant