



TO BE HELD In the Memorial Building Women's Club Room and via Zoom Meeting

(Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://cityofironwood.zoom.us/j/88636805676>)

Economic Development Corporation Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Recording of the Roll.
3. Approval of the Minutes of March 11, 2026
4. Approval of the Agenda.
5. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding Items on the Agenda (Three-minute limit).
6. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding items not on the Agenda (Three-minute limit).
7. Items for Discussion and Consideration.
 - A. Discuss and consider recommendation of Comprehensive Plan
 - B. Goal Prioritization Review
 1. Communication – promote what the EDC is and does.
 2. Promote workforce Development – Address contractor availability by promoting programming of UP Michigan Works, connecting with school programming, etc
 3. Work with Chamber and GCC Workforce Development– hospitality program (training in assets of the region)
 4. Collaborate with the Ironwood Tourism Council in promotion of the area.
 5. Work with vacation rentals to push assets through promotional materials (one page brochure and QR codes) promotional kit for Chamber members.
 6. Continue work towards regional Economic Development Organization
 7. Housing – Quantification of the difference between taxing in the City and other areas. (How housing TIF might be able to make the City more competitive)
 8. Work with Chamber of Commerce on planning for the future.
8. Other Business.
9. Next Meeting: May 6, 2026
10. Adjournment.



**Proceedings of the Economic Development Corporation Meeting
Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. in the Women's Club Room.

1. Ackerman-Behr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Recording of the Roll.

MEMBER	Present		EXCUSED	NOT EXCUSED	TERM EXPIRATION
	YES	NO			
Monica Benson	X				10/31/2026
Simon Batu		X	X		10/31/2026
Vacant					10/31/2027
Corcoran, Kim	X				10/31/2027
Virshek, Danielle	X				10/31/2027
Ackerman-Behr, Glen	X				10/31/2027
Libby, Carolyn		X	X		10/31/2027
Lehto, Steve	X				10/31/2028
Raush, Ken	X				10/31/2029
Quorum	6	2	Quorum		

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

3. Approval of the February 4, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Corcoran to accept the meeting minutes. Second by Lehto. Motion Carried 6 to 0.

4. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion by Corcoran to approve the agenda. Second by Raush. 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. 2026 Goals:

1. Communication – promote what the EDC is and does: Ackerman-Behr attended the Ironwood Chamber of Commerce meeting. The idea to collaborate with the Chamber and possibly a few other organizations was discussed. Making a post about what the EDC is and what it does was discussed. Sharing a monthly Facebook post about the EDC and its goals was discussed. There is a desire to work with and present the EDC's initiatives to the Business Professional Women's Group, Young Business Professional, Rotary, Kiwanis, Travel Ironwood, Realtor Association, Copper Country Trails, KEDA, MEDC, GCC, UPMW, SBDC, WUPPDR, and Health Foundation. Finding out when organizations meet, so that EDC members can do a standardized presentation will be conducted by specific members of the EDC. Each member took on a group to present to. Having a youth liaison from Ironwood Area Schools on the EDC was talked about.
2. Promote Workforce Development – Address contractor availability by promoting programming of UP Michigan Works, connecting with school programming, etc.: Ironwood Area Schools Action item will be changed to this location. Staff will change the City of Ironwood's board and commission application form to add "Student Liaison" as an option. EDC Mission Statement could be reviewed and changed. The lack of a building trades program at GCC and the local schools were discussed. It was discussed to have Ashley Nevins with the Intermediate School District to present to the EDC regarding contractor training programming. Reaching out to contractors to find their issues and barriers could be done through a survey. Promotion plan around the Housing Plan is needed. Bensen asked about finding information about training classes to offer trade students. Adding lead abatement to construction trade programming was discussed.
3. Work with Chamber and GCC workforce Development – hospitality program (training in assets of the region): Ambassador program.
4. Collaborate with the Ironwood Tourism Council in promotion of the area: This is an action item. Glenn would like to meet with the ITC. Collaboration on an ambassador program along with other strategic goals could be done with the ITC.
5. Work with vacation rentals to push assets through promotional materials (one page brochure and QR codes) promotional kit for Chamber members: Allocating a member to meet with the chamber could be an ongoing task. Staff will create a list of short-term rentals and Virshek will try to find a way to gather contact information for property owners. A goal to connect short term rentals with local businesses was discussed. Creating a short-term rental license could be considered.

6. Continue work toward regional Economic Development Organization: The group heading up this project is continuing to work on the creation of this organization. Advocacy from the EDC would likely be the main action. Tom will continue to provide updates on this.
 7. Housing – Quantification of the difference between taxing in the City and other areas. (How housing TIF might be able to make the City more competitive): Housing inventory and conducting a water meter usage study was discussed. The goal is to encourage selling the property to get back on the market.
 8. Work with Chamber of Commerce on planning for the future: Finding additional funding sources to make sure the chamber can support staff. There is potential to have the chamber as part of the EDO or a partnership with the ITC.
8. Other Business: None.
 9. Next Meeting: April 1, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
 10. Adjournment.

Motion by Corcoran to adjourn at 10:18 a.m. Second by Lehto. Motion Carried 6 to 0.

Ackerman-Behr, President

Tim Erickson, Community Development Assistant