



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/86330383541>)

Economic Development Corporation Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Recording of the Roll.
3. Approval of the Minutes of April 1, 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. Guest Speaker – Ashley Nevins of the Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District
 - B. 2026 Goals (Please review goal assignments in minutes)
 1. Communication – promote what the EDC is and does. (Gogebic County Business Forum)
 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: June 4, 2026
10. Adjournment.



Proceedings of the Economic Development Corporation Meeting **Wednesday, April 1, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was held on Wednesday, April 1, 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				10/31/2026
Vacant					10/31/2027
Corcoran, Kim	X				10/31/2027
Virshek, Danielle		X	X		10/31/2027
Ackerman-Behr, Glen	X				10/31/2027
Libby, Carolyn	X				10/31/2027
Lehto, Steve	X				10/31/2028
Raush, Ken	X				10/31/2029
Quorum	7	1	Quorum		

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

3. Approval of the March 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Corcoran to accept the meeting minutes with clerical correction to use last names instead of first names. Second by Lehto. Motion Carried 7 to 0.

4. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion by Corcoran to approve the agenda. Second by Raush. 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): None.
7. Items for Discussion and Consideration

- A. Discuss and consider recommendation of Comprehensive Plan: Kevin Clarke with HKGI presented an overview of the comprehensive plan update.

Motion by Lehto to recommend to the Planning Commission and City Commission adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. Second by Corcoran. All in favor. Motion carried.

- B. 2026 Goals: Ackerman-Behr presented the goal scoring and brought clarity to those documents with how each item was scored. The corporation went through the list and discussed certain items. Libby expressed displeasure with encouraging properties to return to the housing market. The members discussed what type of communication would be acceptable and the reason for sending the letter. Sending out a city newsletter twice per year instead of once, was discussed. Creating a webpage on the website to gain access to realtors and contractors. Hospitality training program was discussed. Raush would like to spearhead workforce needs for contractors and to extend to other businesses. Lehto mentioned that the GOISD CTE contact can present at the next EDC meeting.

Members signed up to spearhead the following:

Tourism Collaboration – Corcoran & Tom/Tim

Chamber Planning – Lehto & Batu

Housing – Ackerman-Behr & Libby

Workforce Development – Raush & Benson

Communication – Group & Ackerman-Behr

Vacation Rentals - Virshek

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 toward 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: None.

9. Next Meeting: May 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

10. Adjournment.

Motion by Lehto to adjourn at 11:01 a.m. Second by Raush. Motion Carried 7 to 0.

Ackerman-Behr, President

Tim Erickson, Community Development Assistant