



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 May 6th, 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 – Anne Giroux, InvestUP, Housing TIF.
 - B. 2026 Goals (Please review goal assignments in minutes).

#	Description	Status	Lead	Next Update
1	Communication – Promote what the EDC is and Does		Group & Ackerman-Behr	Aug '26
2	Promote workforce development and contractor availability		Raush & Benson	June '26
3	Hospitality program collaboration with Chamber and GCC Workforce Development			Oct '26
4	Collaborate with Ironwood Tourism Council in promotion of the area.		Corcoran, Tom & Tim	Aug '26
5	Vacation rental promotional materials and QR code initiative.		Virshek	Sep '26
6	Continue work toward regional Economic Development Organization.		Tom	Sep '26
7	Housing competitiveness and Housing TIF analysis.		Ackerman-Behr & Libby	May '26
8	Work with Chamber of Commerce on long-term planning.		Lehto & Batu	June '26

8. Other Business.

Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026

10:00 a.m.

9. Next Meeting: August 5th, 2026.

10. Adjournment.



**Proceedings of the Economic Development Corporation Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was held on Wednesday, May 6, 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			
Benson, Monica	X				10/31/2026
Batu, Simon		X	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	X		10/31/2029
Quorum	5	3	Quorum		

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

3. Approval of the April 1, 2025, Meeting Minutes: Libby requested a correction to Item 7B of the minutes. Staff will make the correction and send to the group.

Motion by Corcoran to table the minutes. Second by Lehto. Motion Carried 5 to 0.

4. Approval of the Agenda.

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

- A. Guest Speaker – Ashley Nevins of the Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District: Ashley Nevins presented before the board. The board asked questions to Ashley regarding their programming, locations, and student success. Construction trades program was discussed. Tracking students after graduation was asked. InvestUP partnership was brought up.
- B. 2026 Goals:
1. Communication – promote what the EDC is and does. (Gogebic County Business Forum): Lehto had a couple contractors reach out to do a building trades summer camp. He has reached out to the U.P. Construction Council as a potential partner. Lehto was invited to a business brainstorm in Hurley where Bob Jacquart presented. Lehto expressed interest in doing a similar event in the Western U.P. July 21st or the 28th are the potential dates for the event. Aligning the event with GCC's entrepreneurship class was discussed. Bergman mentioned that the EDO focus group met last week and discussed the meeting. Bergman mentioned that Gogebic County is potentially interested in housing the EDO. All upper peninsula EDO's operate separately from the county government.
 2. Promote Workforce Development – Address contractor availability by promoting programming of UP Michigan Works, connecting with school programming, etc.: Bensen presented survey question considerations document and discussed what the Workforce Development team has been working on. Libby made known that many contractors don't have insurance. Understanding the permit requirements at the local level was discussed.
 3. Work with Chamber and GCC workforce Development – hospitality program (training in assets of the region): No update.
 4. Collaborate with the Ironwood Tourism Council in promotion of the area: Libby mentioned the Michigan Welcome Center and was impressed with their facility, knowledge, and brochures. She asked for local tourism entities to funnel people to their facility so that local organizations don't need to reinvent the wheel. Erickson agreed of it's importance and the need for further partnership with the center.
 5. Work with vacation rentals to push assets through promotional materials (one page brochure and QR codes) promotional kit for Chamber members: No update.
 6. Continue work toward regional Economic Development Organization: Bergman mentioned that Gogebic County is potentially interested in housing the EDO. All upper peninsula EDO's operate separately from the county government.

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): Bergman invited Invest UP to discuss housing TIF at the next meeting.
8. Work with Chamber of Commerce on planning for the future: Lehto mentioned that they plan on getting together soon to discuss.
8. Other Business: Ackerman-Behr wants the minutes sent to the board soon after the meeting. He would like to have sub-committees for board members and would like a relevant staff report on each agenda from the Community Development Office. Ackerman-Behr would like his personal contact information presented to the board so that the board members can reach out directly to him.
9. Next Meeting: June 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
10. Adjournment.

Motion by Corcoran to adjourn at 11:01 a.m. Second by Lehto. Motion Carried 5 to 0.

Ackerman-Behr, President

Tim Erickson, Community Development Assistant