IRONWOOD
MICHIGAN | *Find Your North*

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 November 4, 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. Old Business
   A. Childcare update
   B. 2027 Goal setting and review of last year's Goals.

#	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. New Business

A. Changes to EDC Terms (create less overlap on member terms)

9. Update on other Committees and Boards
10. Other Business.
11. Next Meeting: December 2, 2026.
12. Adjournment.

IRONWOOD
MICHIGAN | Find Your North

Proceedings of the Economic Development Corporation Meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was held on Wednesday, October 7, 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.

	Present				
MEMBER	**YES**	**NO**	**EXCUSED**	**NOT EXCUSED**	**TERM EXPIRATION**
Benson, Monica	X				10/31/2026
Vacant					10/31/2026
Vacant					10/31/2027
Corcoran, Kim					10/31/2027
Virshek, Danielle	X				10/31/2027
Ackerman-Behr, Glen	X				10/31/2027
Libby, Carolyn	X				10/31/2027
Lehto, Steve		X	X		10/31/2028
Raush, Ken	X				10/31/2029
Quorum	**5**	**1**	**Quorum**		

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

3. Approval of the September 2, 2026, Meeting Minutes.

   Motion by Corcoran to approve the minutes. Second by Raush. Motion Carried 5 to 0.

4. Approval of the Agenda: Bergman discussed spreading out the terms to be added to the next agenda and potentially discussed under other business of today's meeting. Ackerman-Behr discussed a formal way to communicate with the City Commission and add to the Agenda as 7C.

   Motion by Corcoran to approve the amended agenda. Second by Raush. 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. Childcare: Director Bergman is working with a local childcare facility to increase capacity to 60 kids. GCC is moving forward with their process. A Rural Prosperity grant is available to potentially work help with this issue. Getting grey area childcare to be licensed in some way may be a good opportunity. Ackerman-Behr mentioned that the State of Michigan doesn't understand the problem or any solutions. State of Michigan overregulation in general seems to be an issue. Ackerman-Behr would like to continue the discussion of childcare and a potential decision for the next meeting. Having a resolution from the EDC was mentioned.

   B. 2026 Goals:

      1. Communication – promote what the EDC is and does. (Gogebic County Business Forum): Ackerman-Behr would like the EDC to be more vocal on some of the key issues that need to be addressed.

      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: Virshek included a short-term rental tourism packet program to consider. Ackerman-Behr mentioned work with the Chamber president as the director is retiring soon. Corcoran asked about if the City does any inspections or count of short-term rentals. Mid-term rentals were discussed.

      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): Ackerman-Behr talked about a new program with the State of Michigan that prevents tax increases for long term rentals after a sale. Long term rental taxes after a sale is a concern. There was discussion City's interest in abating taxes for these types of properties and if this activity will keep rentals more affordable. The assessment process of properties was discussed. Getting a one-page description of how the property is assess from the City Assessor is a goal. Bergman discussed an emerging developer meeting at Superior Gales.

PILOT program was discussed. A small group is getting together to discuss the EDO and a capacity grant will be applied for to fund a position.

8. Work with Chamber of Commerce on planning for the future.

c. Discuss and Consider proposal for City Commission communication: Ackerman-Behr presented the proposal. Ackerman-Behr mentioned that he would like old business or similar section added to the agenda. Goal setting process was discussed and having EDC members present at City Commission meetings was discussed.

Motion by Corcoran to approve the proposal. Second by Virshek. Motion Carried 5 to 0.

8. Update on other Committees and Boards: Planning Commission is conducting a zoning ordinance survey that is on the website. The DIDA projects and specifically the mural project was discussed. Parks and Rec Jessieville playground is complete or near completion.

9. Other Business: None.

10. Next Meeting: November 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

11. Adjournment.

Motion by Corcoran to adjourn at 10:54 a.m. Second by Raush. Motion Carried 5 to 0.

_____
Ackerman-Behr, President

_____
Tim Erickson, Community Development Assistant

Category	Description	Owner	Action	Deadline	Status
Communication – promote what the EDC is and does					
Communication	Develop public explanation of EDC role and activities	TBD	Create communication explaining what the EDC is and does	TBD	Not Started
Communication	Monthly public outreach	TBD	Create monthly Facebook post about EDC goals and projects	Monthly	Not Started
Communication	Community presentations	EDC Members	Present EDC initiatives to local organizations	Ongoing	Not Started
Communication	Outreach coordination	TBD	Identify meeting schedules for partner organizations	TBD	Not Started
Communication	Outreach materials	TBD	Develop standardized EDC presentation	TBD	Not Started
Communication	Youth engagement	Staff / EDC	Explore adding Ironwood Area Schools Youth Liaison to EDC	TBD	Not Started
Promote workforce Development – Address contractor availability by promoting programming of UP Michigan Works, connecting with school programming					
Workforce Development	Contractor training information	Staff	Invite Ashley Nevins to present on contractor training programming	TBD	Not Started
Workforce Development	Workforce barriers	Staff	Survey contractors to identify barriers and workforce needs	TBD	Not Started
Workforce Development	Trade student support	TBD	Identify training classes available for trade students	TBD	Not Started
Workforce Development	Construction training	TBD	Explore adding lead abatement training to trade programming	TBD	Not Started
Workforce Development	Student engagement	Staff	Add “Student Liaison” option to City board/commission application	TBD	Not Started
Work with Chamber and GCC Workforce Development – hospitality program (training in assets of the region)					
Workforce Collaboration	Hospitality workforce program	EDC / Chamber / GCC	Develop regional hospitality training program	TBD	Not Started
Workforce Collaboration	Ambassador program	EDC / Chamber	Explore development of regional ambassador program	TBD	Not Started
Collaborate with the Ironwood Tourism Council in promotion of the area					
Tourism Collaboration	Tourism partnership meeting	Glenn / EDC	Meet with Ironwood Tourism Council to discuss collaboration	TBD	Not Started
Tourism Collaboration	Joint tourism initiatives	EDC / ITC	Explore ambassador program and joint promotional efforts	TBD	Not Started
Work with vacation rentals to push assets through promotional materials (one page brochure and QR codes) promotional kit for Chamber members					
Vacation Rentals	Tourism promotion kit	Staff	Create brochure and QR codes promoting regional assets	TBD	Not Started
Vacation Rentals	Rental outreach	Staff	Create list of short-term rental properties	TBD	Not Started
Vacation Rentals	Property owner contacts	Virshek	Gather contact information for rental property owners	TBD	Not Started

Vacation Rentals	Local business promotion	EDC	Connect short-term rentals with local businesses	TBD	Not Started
Vacation Rentals	Policy discussion	EDC / City	Explore possibility of short-term rental license	TBD	Not Started
Continue work toward regional Economic Development Organization					
Regional Development	Regional EDO development	EDC	Advocate for creation of regional Economic Development Organization	Ongoing	In Progress
Regional Development	Project updates	Tom Bergman	Provide updates to EDC regarding progress	Ongoing	In Progress
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	Tax competitiveness analysis	Staff	Quantify difference between city and surrounding housing tax structure	TBD	Not Started
Housing	Housing TIF evaluation	Staff / EDC	Evaluate how housing TIF could improve competitiveness	TBD	Not Started
Housing	Housing inventory	Staff	Conduct housing inventory analysis	TBD	Not Started
Housing	Housing utilization study	Staff	Conduct water meter usage study to identify underused housing	TBD	Not Started
Housing	Housing market activation	EDC	Encourage properties to return to housing market	TBD	Not Started
Work with Chamber of Commerce on planning for the future					
Chamber Collaboration	Chamber sustainability	EDC / Chamber	Identify funding sources to support Chamber staffing	TBD	Not Started
Chamber Collaboration	Strategic alignment	EDC	Explore Chamber participation in regional EDO or ITC partnership	TBD	Not Started