

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MEETING MINUTES
KINCHELOE ROOM, CASS COUNTY BUILDING**

Date February 28, 2018

Time: 8:00 am

Board Members present: Troy Clay X, Kevin Anderson __, Roseann Marchetti X, Rick Russwurm X, Eugene Wagner X, Junior Oliver X, James Finan X, Eileen Toney X, Dawn Bolock X, Harry Shaffer X and Karen Folks X.

Also present: Emilie Sarrtore, Leonard Kanczuzewski, Kay Oliver, Les McClelland, Tom Rose, and Justin Smith.

Troy Clay called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Eileen Toney moved to amend the agenda, seconded by James Finan, and motion carried.

Public Comment: Leonard Kanczuzewski congratulated the EDC on the successful visioning at the Council on Aging and encouraged the members to go full speed ahead.

Eileen Toney moved to approve the amended January 2018, seconded by Dawn Bolock, and motion carried.

Harry Shaffer moved to approve the amended financial report, seconded by Eugene Wagner and motion carried.

There was a discussion held on the bylaws. Troy Clay asked Karen Folks, Eileen Toney and Roseann Marchetti to be the task force to review the bylaws, which were last done in 2012. Eugene Wagner made a motion for the above mentioned to review the bylaws and after a second by James Finan motion carried.

Operations Report: Barkley Garrett explained the merger of SMEGA with Four Flags Chamber of Commerce. The new group will be called Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce. Barkley's role with the County EDC will not change and his territory will remain the same. Barkley explained the South Bend-Elkhart Regional Partnership and said the initiative is moving forward. It includes St. Joseph, IN, Elkhart, Marshall, Berrien and Cass Counties. He serves as co-chair of one of the initiatives and Karen Folks serves on one of the initiatives as well. James Finan commented that the focus is on the region.

Old Business

1. Strategic Plan

We need to be looking at a brand for Cass County and it was suggested the brand be incorporated with the Imagine Cass. We also need to be looking at a website and Laurel Ward of Discover Cass County will be contacted. Troy Clay asked Karen Folks, Roseann Marchetti, Eileen Toney and Barkley Garrett to meet about the website. Also, we need to prepare a profile for Cassopolis. Junior Oliver suggested working with Kinexus as a means of partnering.

2. Imagine Cass...Embrace the Vision

There was a round table discussion on the January 31, 2018, visioning and it was generally agreed that it was a success and we look forward to the next one. Karen Folks indicated that more sponsors are needed and MSU is looking at late April or early May for the next visioning session. A venue is needed that will hold a large number of people.

New Business

1. Troy Clay reviewed his goals for 2018 and relayed that work is being done on the 501 © 6 and 501 © 3. He is planning to have a speaker and a business round table discussion in the spring during the morning before work.
2. Kellogg Foundation Grants – Eileen Toney discussed what the Kellogg Foundation has done for Battle Creek and suggested we need to be looking for grants. We may need to hire a grant writer. Karen Folks will call Battle Creek to learn about their experience with the Kellogg Foundation and the grant requirements.
3. Troy Clay read Johanna Timpson's letter of resignation.
4. Leslie McClelland applied to become a member of the EDC and he spoke about his interest in the EDC. Eileen Toney moved that he be approved as a member of the and to forward the recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for approval. With a second by Junior Oliver the motion carried.

Karen Folks moved to adjourn, seconded by Rick Russwurm and the EDC adjourned at 9:50 am.

We attest the Board of Directors of the Cass County EDC has approved these minutes as the official minutes of the meeting recorded herein.

Troy Clay, Chair_____

Roseann Marchetti, Secretary_____