

**MINUTES**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**JUNE 21, 2023**  
**CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS**  
**COMMUNITY ROOM**  
**31555 W ELEVEN MILE ROAD**  
**FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN**

**CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN T.R. CARR AT 8:03 A.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** T.R. CARR, SCOTT ELLIOTT, SUSAN ARLIN, MARK BRUCKI, EUNICE JEFFRIES, LEW CANTOR

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Ken Massey, Council Liaison, Gary Mekjian, City Manager, Joe Valentine, Assistant City Manager, Cristia Brockway, Economic Development Director

**EXCUSED:** M. Zachos, S. Slaughter, F. Beiermeister

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Lew Cantor, supported by Scott Elliott to move item 7(a) up to item 5 under Chairman's Report and to approve the amended agenda.

Unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Lew Cantor, supported by Scott Elliott to approve the minutes of May 17, 2023, as submitted.

Unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF WHITE BOX PREPERATION**

Motion by Lew Cantor, supported by Mark Brucki to request the City of Farmington Hills to begin preparations for additional white box space for The Hatchery incubator on the third floor of The Hawk.

Unanimously carried.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman T.R. Carr, Gary Mekjian, City Manager, and Cristia Brockway, Economic Development Director discussed the status of the potential tenant occupying the incubator space; the tenant of the incubator space must sign off on the Use and Participation Agreement before moving forward with their lab operations. There is equipment within the lab space, but it is not set up to be operational.

Mark Brucki and Lew Cantor discussed where the Concession Agreement would be put in place to which Mr. Mekjian and Mrs. Brockway explained that it will be drafted once the Hatchery is prepared to transition.

Mr. Cantor and Susan Arlin brought up the topic of finding an Operations Manager (OM) to operate the incubator under The Hatchery. A screening interview will be scheduled to meet with potential applicants for the OM position.

A subcommittee consisting of Eunice Jeffries, Lew Cantor, and Mark Brucki was created for the above-mentioned interview process.

Chairman T.R. Carr also discussed the needs to support the Economic Development Department, one of those needs is to form a budget and allow that budget to mirror needs within the Economic Development Corporation.

## **REPORT/UPDATES FROM**

1. City Management
  - a. None
  
2. Economic Development Director
  - a. Mrs. Brockway presented an update on a new initiative for businesses to meet with a specialized group to address pressing needs such as staff, employee training dollars, and a skilled talent pipeline. That group will include Michigan Works, Oakland Community College, Lawrence Technological University, the City of Farmington Hills, and Farmington Public Schools.
  - b. A brief update was provided on upcoming housing projects along 13 Mile Road.
  
3. Council Liaison
  - a. None.

## **BUSINESS**

1. New Business
  - a. Cristia Brockway, Economic Development Director, discussed economic development possibilities along Grand River Corridor. She stated that this corridor has a TIF district which allows the City to invest dollars for projects related to public use/benefit.
  - b. Mrs. Brockway also stated that she needs EDC assistance to meet businesses, introduce her Economic Development message and city benefits, and understand business owner plans for the property on Grand River for the years to come. She stated that this will be important so that we can gather a direction of parcels that might become ripe for development.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Eunice Jeffries provided an update on Oakland Community's College (OCC) merge of programs from the college's Waterford campus. She also informed the EDC of some conversations regarding the operations at OCC Highland Lakes being taken offline soon.

Susan Arlin shared that the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Farmington Hills Business, Centric Place, to invite and grow BIPOC small businesses in the Greater Farmington Area. Multiple municipalities and associations are in support of this venture. This effort would also be accompanied by applying for small business grants supplied by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Susan Arlin, supported by T.R. Carr to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 a.m.  
Unanimously carried.

*Minutes Drafted by Cristia Brockway, Economic Development Director*