

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 2023
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
COMMUNITY ROOM
31555 W ELEVEN MILE ROAD FARMINGTON
HILLS, MICHIGAN

CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN T.R. CARR AT 8:12 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: T.R. CARR, SCOTT ELLIOTT, MARK ZACHOS, FRITZ BEIRMEISTER, EUNICE JEFFRIES, GERRARD ALLEN, LEW CANTOR

ALSO PRESENT: Theresa Rich, Mayor, Gary Mekjian, City Manager, Karen Mondora, Assistant City Manager, Cristia Brockway, Economic Development Director

EXCUSED: S. Arlin, M. Brucki

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Scott Elliott, supported by Fritz Beiermeister to approve the agenda as submitted.
Unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Eunice Jeffries, supported by Scott Elliott to approve the minutes of October 5, 2023, as submitted.
Unanimously carried.

BUSINESS

Gerrard Allen was introduced by Chairman T.R. Carr and welcomed to the Economic Development Corporation.

Chairman T.R. Carr and Cristia Brockway introduced members of the EDC some economic development focus areas within Farmington Hills. The message was to have members present their interest in certain business categories and how the corporation and Economic Development Director could work in unison for retention purposes.

Eunice Jeffries and Fritz Beiermeister exclaimed that meeting with any of the businesses in Farmington Hills, a great retention tool is to present our community assets. These assets could include, but are not limited to, proximity to the airport, Oakland Community College, medical professionals within the community, and family-friendly parks. They also suggested asking the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce if their business members have common asks to improve their business within the city.

Eunice Jeffries shared that having the City be in tune with social media will help economic development

in terms of understanding trending community interests. She also stated that it will be important to become a part of a business' "toolkit".

T.R. Carr, Scott Elloit, and Cristia Brockway discussed the vision for Grand River Corridor and how it could supply more business synergy to Corewell Hospital. It was discussed that the layout of Grand River Avenue in terms of its zoning and parcel sizes make it extremely difficult for redevelopment. Unique developer requests in certain developments have been put forward as an option to move business opportunities forward.

Cristia Brockway proposed for a subcommittee to be created in order to discuss an economic development strategy for the corporation. This would be to discuss the benefits of the city, the drafted Economic Development Strategy for the Master Plan Update, organize the deliverables identify resources for the EDC to share.

APPROVAL OF CREATING A SUBCOMMITTEE WITH SELECT MEMBERS OF THE EDC TO DEVELOP AN EDC STRATEGY WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR.

Motion by T.R. Carr, supported by Fritz Beiermeister to creation of a subcommittee.

Unanimously carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman encouraged members of the EDC to sit in on the January 9, City Council goal setting session.

REPORTS

- a) Gary Mekjian, City Manager, shared that the Master Plan Update will be nearing approval in the first quarter of the 2024 calendar year. Zoning changes are going to be a major topic in order to allow future uses along major corridors.
- b) Theresa Rich, Mayor, shared that there have been new appointments to several boards and commissions. She also shared that her goal is to create a destination Farmington Hills with places to go now and for the future.
- c) Cristia Brockway, Economic Development Director, shared that there are new members being appointed on the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA). Once there is a full board, she encourages some members representatives of the EDC to attend a CIA meeting in order to gain an understanding of how the corridor can be improved with the Tax Increment Financing dollars as well as to discuss a corridor identity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman T.R. Carr at 9:08 a.m.

Unanimously carried.

Minutes Drafted by Cristia Brockway, Economic Development Director