

MEETING MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
JANUARY 15, 2020 8:00 AM
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
31555 W. ELEVEN MILE ROAD
FARMINGTON HILLS MI 48336

CALLED TO ORDER BY: CHAIRMAN CANTOR AT 8:04 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: ANHUT, BEIERMEISTER, CANTOR, HARTSOCK, LINDSEY-FEAGIN, ZACHOS

MEMBERS ABSENT: SLAUGHTER, ELLIOTT

OTHERS PRESENT: Samantha Seimer, Economic Development Director; Gary Mekjian, Assistant City Manager; T. R. Carr; Diane Holcomb; Dr. Robert Herrera; Diane Bauman, Jennifer Kamimski

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Anhut, support by Beiermeister, to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 18, 2019:

Motion by Beiermeister, support by Anhut to approve the minutes as submitted.
Motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Chairman Cantor reiterated the support from City Council during their 2018 Goals and Objectives Study Session for the furthering the business incubator. The City Council continues to support this endeavor based on their discussions at the 2019 Goals and Objectives
- Chairman Cantor stated that he met with the Mayor and she is supportive of economic development. Mr. Hartsock added that the Mayor's prior experience in Lansing is helpful.
- City Council will consider support of the appointment of T. R. Carr to the EDC at their February 10 meeting.
- Chairman Cantor stated that the Economic and Community Development Director from Farmington, Kevin Christiansen, may be a potential speaker at an upcoming EDC meeting to discover ways we can work together on initiatives.

NEW BUSINESS:

No action items.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Hawk Incubator

- Chairman Cantor stated that he and Ms. Seimer along with Central Services Director Ms. Monico interviewed two potential consulting firms on Friday, December 20. The two firms are Public Sector Consultants from Lansing, Michigan and Place Dynamics from New Berlin, Wisconsin.
- After listening to presentations from each firm, Place Dynamics really stood out due to their competitive pricing and proprietary model of research and development of entrepreneurial spaces specifically business incubators.
- The bid to Place Dynamics will be awarded on February 10, 2020.

b. Connected Farmington Hills

- Ms. Seimer informed the Board the Connected Business Survey was sent out December 20. The Chamber has agreed to send it to its 4,000 email list; it will be on social media and sent to a vetted list of Farmington Hills Businesses in the Economic Development online database. Staff has requested responses by January 31, 2020.
- To date there have been responses from over 40 businesses.

January 15, 2020

- Ms. Seimer noted that the Chamber may utilize some of the survey results to build programming for its education committee training series. This will be a value add to the business community as needs are identified through the business survey.

BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS:

- Mr. Anhut gave a recap of his business development activities for the past month. He stated that he followed up with Nissan about their expansion project, and that Mercedes Benz Financial Services will be moving forward and Harman Becker Automotive Systems has moved back into Farmington Hills. Mr. Anhut also stated that Madonna University is beginning a football program and they may be looking for field space to play.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Dr. Herrera, Ms. Bauman and Ms. Kaminski from Farmington Public Schools gave a presentation about a Bond Proposal which will appear on the March 2020 Primary Election.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The next meeting of the EDC will be February 19, 2020 at 8:00 AM.

Chairman Cantor adjourned the meeting at 9:18 AM

Minutes drafted by: Samantha Seimer