

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
AUGUST 15, 2023
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
COMMUNITY ROOM
31555 W ELEVEN MILE ROAD
FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN

CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN T.R. CARR AT 8:02 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: T.R. CARR, SCOTT ELLIOTT, MARK ZACHOS, MARK BRUCKI, LEW CANTOR, FRITZ BEIRMEISTER

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Ken Massey, Council Liaison, Gary Mekjian, Cristia Brockway, Economic Development Director, Erik Perdonik, City Planner, Kristoffer Canty, Staff Planner, Jill Bahm, Giffels Webster Planning Consultant

EXCUSED: S. Arlin, E. Jeffries, S. Slaughter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Scott Elliott, supported by Fritz Beiermeister to approve the minutes of June 21, 2023, as submitted.
Unanimously carried.

BUSINESS

Jill Bahm, Giffels Webster Planning Consultant, presented at the meeting that the City of Farmington Hills is going through a Master Plan update. She described that the Master Plan's purpose is to be the community's guide for the future for the next 10 to 15 years in terms of development, ordinance needs, and citizen needs. Mrs. Bahm opened the meeting with a question regarding the current opportunities and positive things throughout the City. Members of the EDC replied that the City is deliberate with economic development, there are safe neighborhoods, Farmington Hills is centrally located, there is a diverse, international community, and good public utilities. Cristia Brockway, Economic Development Director, added that the City also benefits from connections to resources that could help businesses. She also stated that the City has a Tax Increment Finance district called the Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority which acts as a tool for redevelopment.

Mrs. Bahm then asked what the board sees as weaknesses throughout the community that the City should improve upon. The EDC shared their opinion on the current school district and how improvements to basic education would be beneficial. Improvements to the power grid and certain city street intersection improvements are also needed. Mark Zachos and Mrs. Brockway discussed that an interest in overall economic growth from leaders in higher positions such as in Oakland County and the State of Michigan would help the City's bottom line. To have an invested interest in not only manufacturing, but a serious interest in retail, office, and other commercial industries would help create a synergous economy.

A conversation was also held discussing the need to evaluate drive-throughs throughout the community. It was discussed that they may be appropriate in some locations while they might be unwelcome in others due to the amount of vehicle traffic and stacking. More information will have to be discussed on this topic. Chairman T.R. Carr requested Jill Bahm to return to a future EDC meeting to follow up on the input that was given.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

None.

REPORT/UPDATES FROM

1. City Management
 - a. None

2. Economic Development Director
 - a. None.

3. Council Liaison
 - a. None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman T.R. Carr at 9:00 a.m.
Unanimously carried.

Minutes Drafted by Cristia Brockway, Economic Development Director