

MEETING MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
February 16, 2022
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS COMMUNITY ROOM
31555 W ELEVEN MILE ROAD FARMINGTON HILLS,
MICHIGAN

CALLED TO ORDER BY Chairman Lewis Cantor, at 8:08 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lewis Cantor, T.R. Carr, Fritz Beiermeister, Mark Brucki, Scott Elliott, Mark Zachos, Sam Slaughter

ALSO PRESENT: Joseph Valentine, Assistant City Manager, Ken Massey, City Council Liaison, Cristia Brockway, Economic Development Director, Susan Arlin, Director of the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce and public participant, Diane Holcom, public participant, Samantha Semier, AKT Peerless and public participant

EXCUSED: Eunice Jeffries

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Fritz Beiermeister, supported by T.R. Carr, to approve the agenda as submitted. Unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fritz Beiermeister, supported by Scott Elliott to approve the minutes of January 19, 2022 as submitted.

Unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. Chairman Cantor reported that William Hartsock has resigned after years of faithful service and has sent his resignation letter.
2. Chairman Cantor recommended that Diane Holcom, apply for membership on the board due to her long term attendance and involvement in the Economic Development Corporation. The Board agreed with this recommendation.
 - a. Ms. Holcom stated that she believes she has skills required in order to assist the Board in its mission. She also can assist in publicizing the role of the EDC through her contacts with the Farmington Observer.
3. Chairman Cantor reported the hawk Innovation Center is nearing the point of launch and the Board will present an update on the project to the City Council for approval in March and inclusion in the city budget process.
 - a. The EDC will also continue to identify potential external financial resources to support the development of the Hawk Innovation Center.
 - b. Chairman Cantor also stated that he, Ken Massey, and T.R. Carr have a meeting with State Representative Samantha Steckloff on Monday, February 21 to discuss the possibility of state funding for the Innovation Center. Representative Steckloff requested the meeting to enhance her understanding of the Hawk Innovation Center as she seeks to identify potential state funding for the innovation center.
4. Fritz Beiermeister inquired concerning EDC knowledge relating to successful entrepreneurs in the Farmington Hills area and inquired about the viability of a possible advisory board.

- a. Mark Brucki responded concerning the advisory board, stating that it could be composed of individuals from the City, funders, business associates, and individuals familiar with the targeted industry segment.
- 5. Chairman Cantor stated the importance of connecting with the Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce as an important organization that can be helpful to inform the community concerning the EDC and its activities.
 - a. Sue Arlin, Director of the Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce and public participant, commented that the Chamber is capable of assisting in that effort and has the ability to post news from the EDC to chamber members.

REPORT/UPDATES FROM

- 1. City management
 - a. Joe Valentine reported that the State of the Cities meeting is in March and invited EDC members to attend. He reported the following items:
 - i. There are online events on March 15 and 16 to gather information on the cannabis industry for the City Council. These events will also be available for citizens to view.
 - ii. The City is engaging in a revision of the Master Plan that will begin in March. A consultant will begin gathering data to be synthesized as the first part of the master plan revision effort.
 - iii. A new development project near Northwestern Highway called the Emerson Luxury Lofts of Farmington Hills is in process.
 - iv. The city is also seeking to promote the community from an Economic Development Perspective.
 - b. Cristia Brockway reported the on activities in Farmington Hills. Her report is as follows:
 - i. A list of developments in the Planning Annual Report will be presented to the Planning Commission on February 17.
 - ii. There are several new developments and redevelopment interests along Grand River, 12 Mile, Orchard Lake Road, and 10 Mile Road.
 - iii. The Grand River Corridor Improvement Plan Update will be presented to the Grand River Corridor Authority for approval. This is a joint effort between the City of Farmington and Farmington Hills to improve the Grand River Corridor. Beaumont Health system will also have an impact on the project.
 - c. Mark Zachos requested information on the city planning vision process.
 - i. Joe Valentine answered that the new master plan is an open process for community input.
- 2. Council Liaison
 - a. Councilman Ken Massey gave an update that the Innovation Environment Energy Sustainability Committee board member appointments have been postponed until February 28.
 - b. Councilman Ken Massey stated that Ms. Holcom can utilize the new City online form to request formal appointment to the EDC. This new online process can be used for all City boards and commissions.

BUSINESS

- 1. Old Business
 - a. Business Incubator Update
 - i. Mark Brucki asked concerning the plan for the EDC to present the Incubator to Council in March.

1. Council Liaison, Ken Massey, reported that obtaining the financials for the project are Council's main concern. Public Sector Consultants is expected to come forward with the project's business plan and potential funding opportunities.
- ii. Chairman Cantor asked if there is a specific concern to address before the March meeting.
 1. Joe Valentine answered stating that the final business plan is expected to be provided.
 - a. The business plan and opportunity for funding will need to be identified.
 - b. Connected Farmington was identified by Chairman Cantor and discussed with Samantha Semier, (AKT Peerless – FH city consultant) as a way to market the community from an Economic Development perspective by engaging businesses.
- i. Joe Valentine and Cristia Brockway stated that the City has an Economic Development marketing initiative that is ongoing and will coordinate efforts through the Economic Development Director.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion by Chairman Lewis Cantor, supported by Fritz Beiermeister to elect T.R. Carr as Chairman. Unanimously approved.

Motion by T.R. Carr, supported by Sam Slaughter to elect Lew Cantor as Vice Chair. Unanimously approved.

Motion by T.R. Carr, supported by Sam Slaughter to elect Scott Elliot as Secretary. Unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Chairman T.R. Carr stated that the previously discussed internship program can be expanded to include entrepreneurship training and seminars that can be presented to Farmington Public Schools and other educational institutions in the area. The Board expressed support for this type of initiative.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- b. None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- c. Sue Arlin discussed the need to create connections with the large corporations in the greater Farmington area. The Board agreed that this would be an important initiative.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fritz Beiermeister, supported by Sam Elliott to approve adjournment at 9:15 a.m. Unanimously approved.

Minutes Drafted by Cristia Brockway, Economic Development Director