

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
OF WAYNE COUNTY, INDIANA**

**Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 5, 2007**

Board Members Present: Baumgartner, Chamness, Hackman, Harris, Holman, Jackson, Keep, Kem, Powell, Semler, Veramallay, and Zetzl

Staff Present: Dinkle, Doty, Ducey, Hansen, Johnson, Kraft and Martus

Guests Present: Don Eliason – interested citizen
Tony Foster – Director of Metropolitan Development, City of Richmond
Mary Heyob – President, Wayne County Commissioners
Jeff Lane - WQLK/WHON
Chris Nolte - WKBV
Jeff Plasterer – Wayne County Council
Karl Sharp - Member, Richmond Common Council
George Sowers - EDC Legal Counsel
Kim Thurlow – Ivy Tech Community College

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chairman John Zetzl called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County, Indiana to order at 4:03 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2007 at the Greens Fork Community Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Hackman, second by Chamness to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2007, monthly Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

February Financial Statement

Harris reported that the EDC was under budget \$13,291.89 for the month of February but, is still over budget year-to-date due to payment timing issues. This will slowly be correctly throughout the year. **Motion by Powell, second by Kem to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.**

EDC REPORTS

A. President’s Report

Dinkle reported that he attended the Palladium-Item’s editorial board meeting last week where Governor Mitch Daniels was in attendance. The governor was very complementary of ongoing state projects and stated that he is supporting incentives for retail destination.

B. Business Recruitment

Martus said that there were 2 site visits in February; 1 for a manufacturing company and 1 for a logistics and distribution company. The distribution group was here for their third site visit. While that group of site selectors and the customer was here, the governor called into the conference room and allowed the group to introduce themselves. The governor told the group that state help was available.

C. Existing Business

Hansen reported that agricultural economic development has been very active. There is a lot of debate going on in the legislature and within the livestock group surrounding CAFOs. Hansen would like to hold a meeting to inform concerned citizens about modern operations. CAFOs are a major concern in our region now so it is important to get out accurate information. Hansen added that there is currently a lot of activity with local companies wanting to expand.

D. Community Development

Doty reported that she has been working on the annual meeting and annual report preparations. She has also been working with the IEDC on an IDGF grant for the construction of the road on Enterprise Road in the IGIP for the DOT Foods project. Eight RFPs were dispersed to marketing firms and the EDC received five responses. The staff will develop a recommendation to the marketing committee next month.

E. LIFE SCIENCES

Ducey stated that last month most of her attention was on the agri-life science conference she put together. There were ____ that attended the conference. Ducey hopes to keep exploring avenues of life sciences.

F. SBDC

Kraft reported that he participated in a conference call with the new SBDC State Director and learned that the director will take recommendations next week from a consultant as to what direction the SBDC is going to take in regards to the hosting site. Regardless of the decision, the transition will take place on April 1st.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Financial Committee – Harris reported that the committee reviewed committed EDIT funds, each fund's balance, and made projections. Insurance quotes were also reviewed.

B. Personnel Committee – Semler reported that the committee discussed and made recommendations in regards to the health insurance and the long and short term disability insurance. The committee recommends offering short-term disability as and employee paid option. The health insurance deductible increased from \$500 to \$1,000 to keep the monthly premium down. **Motion by Semler, second by Hackman to approve the deductible increase for the health insurance policy and to change long-term disability providers. Motion carried.**

C. Marketing Committee – Chamness reported that the committee reviewed a proposal from DOT Foods asking permission to put up signage on I-70. The committee decided to offer DOT Foods use of the EDC's billboard instead for a period of 6 months while the EDC prepares the new design of both the MIP and IGIP billboards. The committee also discussed the marketing RFPs that were mentioned by Doty.

D. Industrial Park – Zetzl reported that the committee discussed a quote for geo-technical studies for the remaining lots in the MIP. It will be in our best interest to have the park ready to go for prospects. Dinkle and Martus met with Norfolk-Southern Rail Road and gave them maps of Wayne County's rail sites to see the potential of intermodal here. The capacity of the Western Wayne Regional Sewer District was also discussed.

E. Executive Committee – Zetzl said the Executive Committee approved an expenditure of \$2,500 for a special project. The committee also talked about many of the items previously discussed.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. EDIT Application #07-091 – Zetzl stated that the City of Richmond submitted an EDIT application based on the proposal from Patriot Engineering to do 30 soil borings at the MIP for \$8,000. The industrial park committee recommends that this be completed. **Motion by Harris, second by Holman to accept and approve EDIT application 07-091. Motion carried.** Martus added that each lot will have 5 boring, one each of the four corners and one in the center of each of the available lots of Phase I in MIP. Phase II has already been done.

B. Other Announcements – Dinkle stated that he toured Civic Hall the first month he was on the job and then knew the debate potential of the facility. On January 2nd the Commission on Presidential Debates requested proposals from communities wanting to host a debate. The EDC did its due diligence for a month before the decision was made to move forward. The deadline for submission is March 31st and a site visit will be made this summer. Campaigns will spend billions of dollars in 2008, the economic benefit could be more than \$43 million and the number of media hits would be in the millions. The EDC has partnered with the Wayne County Convention and Tourism Bureau to put this on. It will require 1,000 volunteers from the community. Tomorrow the EDC will hold a news conference to announce that we are moving forward with the project. The students of Wayne County, the hospitality industry, and tradesman will all greatly benefit from this. It is estimated that there will be 15-20 communities that will put in a bid. Our elected officials, the governor, and the school systems are all on board. We look to the community for support on this as well. Zetzl added that he is very excited about this opportunity and he thanked Dinkle for his creative thinking.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. without a motion.

NEXT BOARD MEETING– 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 2, 2007 at Forest Hills Country Club located at 2169 South 23rd Street, Richmond. This will also be the annual meeting.