

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF WAYNE COUNTY, INDIANA

Board Meeting Minutes Monday, June 4, 2007

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

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

Guests Present: Don Eliason – interested citizen
Dick Hamm – past chairman, EDC Board of Directors
Mary Heyob – President, Wayne County Commissioners
Jeff Lane – *Kicks 96/WQLK*
Chris Nolte - *WKBV*
Dianna Pappin – President, Richmond Common Council
Jeff Plasterer – Wayne County Council
Scott Reed – New Ways
Jay Riggleman – Economy Fire Chief
Karl Sharp - Member, Richmond Common Council
Jerry Shuckles – interested citizen
Darrell Smith – *Connersville News Examiner*
George Sowers - EDC Legal Counsel

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 4:10 p.m. on Monday, June 4, 2007 at the Lions Club in Economy, Indiana.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 7, 2007

Motion by Chamness, second by Jackson to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2007 monthly Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

May Financial Statement

Zetzl reported that the total expenses for May were approximately \$4,000 under budget but actually when SBDC expenses that aren't budgeted are not accounted for we were actually \$12,000 under budget. The \$1,000 of other income in the operating fund was a contribution from Energize ECI for Jim's trade mission to Europe. The \$2,500 of other income in the discretionary fund is a repayment of a loan to EIDD. That was the final payment of the \$7,500 loan. **Motion by Hackman, second by Veramallay to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.**

EDC REPORTS

A. President's Report

Dinkle reported that the unemployment rate is down with Wayne County at 5.5% and the state at 5.4% compared to Randolph County at 6% and Henry County at 5.7%. There were 5 new projects and 3 site visits in May with one of the companies expecting to return within the next

week. Hansen, who is currently at a conference in Canada visited with 21 existing businesses in May. Dinkle stated that the week of July 16th the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) will make a one day visit to Richmond. The EDC and the W.C. Convention and Tourism Bureau have put together a steering committee with several sub-committees to prepare. We are working to identify a route for their tour of Richmond and removing graffiti from buildings and bridges. Dinkle then mentioned the passing of Bob Quadrozzi, Jay County EDC Director, who will be sadly missed.

B. Community Development

Doty reported that she has been working with Energize ECI by gathering information for their new website geared towards site selectors. On behalf of the Wayne County Commissions she has been researching INDOT's Safe Route to School Program. Cambridge City would like sidewalks extended into county jurisdictions to provide a safe walking route for school children. Doty visited the Dayton International Airport with the transportation sub-committee of the steering committee. There they learned how to present the airport to the CPD. She is also working on the annual Chamber farm tour that will be at McBride Paints horse farm on July 17th.

C. SBDC

Kraft reported that the search for his replacement has been narrowed down to 2 candidates and they hope to make a decision and hire a candidate by next month. Financing for 2007 is up over \$1 million already. The decision has been made to keep the SBDC satellite office at the EDC for the remainder of the year.

D. Life Sciences

Ducey stated that she included a report in the board packet to layout her attempt at life science economic development. In this report the history, strategy and report of new activity in the life sciences industry is explained. Because she recently learned that alternative energy is a part of the life sciences industry, she participated in a conference last month on alternative energy. She also helped with an EDC site visit and worked with an existing company to connect them with the State of Indiana.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Financial Committee – Zetzl reported that the EDC will be meeting with the Wayne County Council for a mid-year review of the budget and to work on the proposed 2008 budget. They also reviewed the discretionary fund balance to ensure they were on track. The two EDIT applications on the agenda were also discussed.

B. Personnel Committee – Semler reported that the committee discussed the status of Professional Staff Management and as well as the two EDIT applications.

C. Marketing Committee – Chamness said that the committee interviewed two marketing firms and are leaning towards one of them more than the other but are performing heavy background checks before a decision is made, hopefully next week.

D. Industrial Park – Zetzl reported that the committee continued discussions on an aeration system for the IGIP which they are still receiving estimates for. Sonja Brock from the Richmond Parks Department spoke to the group about an alternative use for a lot in the MIP. She proposed it be used for a frisbee golf park. First Sowers will ensure that nearby land owners or the covenants and restrictions do not oppose this use. Apparently frisbee golf is gaining interest nationwide among young professionals. Zetzl stated that Dot Foods is using the IGIP billboard for a period of 6 months until the EDC has completed its new marketing strategy.

E. Executive Committee – Zetzl stated that the committee discussed the two EDIT applications on the agenda and Dinkle updated them on his trade mission to Europe. They also discussed Energize ECI's efforts to develop a building and sites website that was mentioned by Doty. The potential for a summer intern was brought up but the committee feels that it is too late this year. It may be a great opportunity next year when we will have the opportunity to budget for it.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. EDIT Application #07-094 – Zetzl stated that this EDIT application is from TBK America, Inc. and is a request for funds as a part of the EDC’s incentive package to them. In addition to this grant they have been offered a 10 year tax abatement, \$100,000 moving grant and a \$20,000 employee training grant. The executive committee recommends that this application be approved and paid from the consolidated EDIT fund. **Motion by Chamness, second by Holman to approve EDIT application #07-094 for TBK America, Inc. in the amount of \$40,000 and to be recommended to be paid from the Consolidated EDIT Fund. Motion carried. Baumgartner abstained.**

B. EDIT Application #07-095 – Zetzl stated that this EDIT application is from Clay Township to assist with moving and reinstalling a communications tower for internet service. The executive committee recommends that this application be approved and paid from the discretionary fund. **Motion by Semler, second by Jackson to approve EDIT application #07-095 and for it to be paid from the discretionary fund. Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m. without a motion.

NEXT BOARD MEETING– 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 9, 2007 at Indiana University East at Whitewater Hall in the Community Room, 2325 Chester Blvd, Richmond, IN.