

KENDALL COUNTY ILLINOIS

Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 22, 2016

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Koukol at 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Chairman Dan Koukol, Matt Prochaska, Judy Gilmour, Lynn Cullick

Committee Members Absent: Scott Gryder

At 8:33 a.m., a moment of silence was held for Mr. Gryder's father.

Staff Present: Andrez Beltran, Economic Development and Special Projects Coordinator; Jeff Wilkins, County Administrator

Members of the Public: None

Approval of Agenda – Ms. Cullick made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Prochaska Approved 4-0.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Mr. Prochaska made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the November 20, 2015 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Cullick. Approved 4-0.

New Business

Kendall County Career Fairs

Mr. Beltran stated the Kendall Economic Development Alliance along with Waubonsee will be co-hosting the Kendall County Career Fair. This year the Fair will be held on three days instead of one. Each Fair will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and focus on a particular field: June 10 – Manufacturing; June 17 – Health Care; and June 24 – Information Services

He stated a key driver to this change was declining attendance of the traditional job fairs, and a want to keep businesses local. In addition, these fairs could help companies in the same industry connect.

Old Business

Revolving Fund Loans

Chairman Koukol stated that the Can-Man loan has been paid in full.

- *Review: Monthly Statements*

Mr. Beltran reviewed the current Revolving Fund Loan Reports from March 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016. All current payments are in for the month. Current available loan amount is approximately \$1.7 million.

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- *Discussion: Loan Process Document*

Mr. Beltran stated the Loan Process Document was put together after the last loans were done. Mr. Beltran continued that the purpose not only educate applicants on what would be required, but also the process and time.

Mr. Beltran noted that we would be asking for an application fee to cover the cost of documentation for the application but also would be applied to closing costs. The Committee discussed the amount of the closing costs and whether or not that should be refundable. The consensus was to monitor the next loan and to reassess afterwards.

Business Retention & Expansion

- *Update: KEDA*

Mr. Beltran stated that KEDA is looking to develop a Work-Study program for manufacturing in the County. Currently the program outline is being developed and partners are being proposed.

Update: Industrial Market Analysis

Mr. Beltran stated that CMAP has delivered a draft of the Key Recommendations memo. Mr. Wilkins and Mr. Beltran reviewed as well as members of KEDA. CMAP is currently incorporating the feedback into the report, and finishing the final touches. He finished that there is not an expected delivery date.

Mr. Wilkins stated that one statistic that drew his notice was that 90% of the workforce leaves the County to work, and 26% of jobs in County are filled by residents. In addition, when Caterpillar is taken out of industrial space, there is more industrial space in Sandwich-Plano-Yorkville than Oswego-Montgomery.

Updated: Economic Indicator Dashboard

Mr. Beltran stated that growth over the quarter slowed considerably.

Update: Strategic Goals Action Items

Mr. Beltran stated that the draft 2015 Strategic Plan guided the economic development efforts over the last year. While most of the goals were met, the biggest lesson was the refining of the goals for 2016, leading to the development of the 2016 Strategic Plan. He stated that the Strategic Priorities were Business Attraction, Retention, and Expansion. In addition, he explained the process of how Economic Development goes about achieving the priorities; key among it being partnerships. Finally, he stated the five strategies that were being used to attain the priorities.

Regional Initiatives

- *Update: Metro Chicago Exports (MCE)*

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Mr. Beltran stated that MCE started accepting applications for the 2016 Export Micro-grant. He sent the press release out to news and business organizations. In addition, 2015 and 2016 grant recipients will be eligible to submit a pitch for additional funding totaling \$30,000.

Mr. Beltran stated another program MCE brought to the area is the ExporTech program. This program places exporters in a cohort of eight to ten businesses to learn from experienced exporters. The results of the program are significant increases in sales. While having a cost, MCE managed to put scholarship money aside for Chicago Metro businesses. Mr. Beltran stated that at least one Kendall business is in the program while others are interviewing.

- *Update: Chicago Metro Metals Consortium (CMMC)*
Mr. Beltran stated that the region is reapplying for the TIGER grant for the Touhy interchange in Chicago and reapplying for Illinois Manufacturing Communities Program (IMCP). In addition, Program Manager Derek Walvoord left to take a position with the Illinois Housing Authority.
- *Update: Chicago Regional Growth Initiatives*
Mr. Beltran stated the meeting focused on the proposals developed to increase coordination among the seven counties, including a proposal to create a 501 c3 organization. The original thought was for marketing and branding of the metro area.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Koukol stated that Montgomery is looking for developers for speculative warehouse buildings. He continued that Montgomery is a draw due to Aurora's workforce. The Chairman then asked members of the Committee for updates.

Ms. Cullick stated that in Oswego is looking at Wolf's Crossing.

Mr. Prochaska asked about the status of MetroNet. Mr. Wilkins stated they have finalized plans with Plainfield and are working with Oswego. After finalizing Oswego they will begin to work with the County on a franchise agreement.

Ms. Gilmour had no updates.

Public Comment – None

Executive Session - None

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Prochaska moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cullick. There being no objection, the Economic Development Committee at 9:44 a.m., adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Andrez P. Beltran
Economic Development and Special Projects Coordinator