

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
May 9, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. in the Commission Chambers located on the second floor of the Governmental Center and led the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Nate Alger, Marty Colburn, Keef Morgan, Sonny Wheelock, Richard Lewis, Jessica Sullivan, Dennis Arouca, Keef Morgan

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Naughton, Christian Smith, Kevin Klein

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Wheelock,, seconded by Lewis to approve the agenda. **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Arouca, seconded by Alger to approve the minutes of 4-11-19 as distributed. **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

MOVED by Wheelock seconded by Alger to nominate Lewis as Vice Chair. Morgan volunteered for the position. Motion and second withdrawn. Keef Morgan was approved unanimously as the new Vice Chairperson.

REPORTS / ACTION ITEMS

1. Traverse Connect/EDO Update:

Sullivan spoke about the stakeholders meeting at Hagerty yesterday. Alger commented about the positive energy he experienced at the Workshop. All diverse groups were included and participated.

Information from the workshop will come back to the Steering Committee in June and they will get together with TraverseCONNECT and the Chamber and will take a look at the brand and structure. Final sign off with the Board is anticipated September 12. Sullivan distributed a work paper for information.

Alger commented on what depth the EDO was getting into regarding child care and homelessness and asked if that be something that this board would want to get involved in. Arouca indicated that in his opinion the EDC does not have the capability to do what is needed. The EDO might have the expertise but could be spread too thin. Perhaps sister groups could get involved and be charged with the leadership roll for

those issues. Wheelock agreed that housing and child care is a key problem in the area but the charge could be led by private industry, not a government agency.

2. Venture North – Subrecipient Agreement:

Chris Forsyth presented both agreements for information. Ross Hammersley is still working on this and will bring back to board in June. He's met with Laura Galbraith about the responsibility of the outstanding loans and that discussion was never held with county staff.

There are three policies being worked on as part of the subrecipient agreement - a fair housing policy, grievance policy, and displacement policy. Further review is being done by civil counsel and the policies will go back to the GTC Board in June. These policies must be approved in order to get funding.

Additional discussion continued briefly. There has been no new money received from CDBG in over 20 years and overall, we have been successful with more funds than not.

3. Opportunity Zone Summit:

This was an interesting summit that Forsyth, Morgan and Sullivan attended. Is there anything EDC could do to get the word out on this as it is an awesome opportunity for the area. Sullivan asked about putting together a group and possibly seeing what other EDC's are doing to assist. Morgan will take the lead and work with Forsyth to do this.

Wheelock suggested that we make sure that planning and construction departments are not standing in the way of helping companies to move forward. We do not want to impede progress.

OTHER BUSINESS

Arouca provided brief update regarding agriculture group in west Michigan and the Center for Automotive Research.

Sullivan will provide information to Chris C. to distribute and needs confirmation on using the garage.

OLD BUSINESS

Next meeting is June 13 @ 8:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting was adjourned at 8:49 a.m..