

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
May 18, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM. Marty Colburn led the pledge of allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Marty Colburn, Kevin Klein, Jessica Sullivan, Christie Minervini, Nate Alger, Dennis Arouca, Kevin Endres, Rob Hentschel, Tom Kern, Gary Howe, Warren Call, Chris Forsyth

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Keef Morgan

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED** by Hentschel, seconded by Endres, to approve the agenda. **APPROVED unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOVED** by Hentschel, seconded by Kern, to approve the regular session minutes of 2-13-20 with correction. **APPROVED unanimously.**

**REPORTS / ACTION ITEM**

1. Traverse Connect Update – Warren Call gave an update regarding the merger between Traverse Connect and Traverse City Chamber of Commerce, as well as updates to their website with a business and talent attraction theme. The website provides resources, highlighting what is available in our community and gives an overview of our community assets.  
Through COVID-19 the priority has remained the same, to support local businesses. They have supported local businesses through interpreting Executive Orders, grants, federal aid, child care, insurance, and funding program and providing each industry with a tool kit to reopen safely.  
Traverse Connect is focused on marketing the Grand Traverse Area as an economic destination; the expansion and retention of small businesses. Micro grants will be available to small businesses thru a Regional Resiliency Fund. Traverse Connect was awarded a large grant through MEDC to highlight creative industries in our region. Traverse Connect continues to be excited about what can be done
2. City of Traverse City Update – Marty Colburn discussed working with the Downtown Development Authority to open up Downtown by shutting off a portion of Front Street to vehicles giving pedestrians/shoppers the ability to shop, eat and enjoy the downtown area and continue to safely social distance.

3. Grand Traverse County – Nate Alger shared that the County has been working hard since the first part of March to provide services to the public while keeping employees and the public safe through the COVID-19 pandemic. The County continues to work on their plan for reopening.  
Nate spoke about the website created to assist the community with information regarding COVID-19, GTCountyCOVID19.com.
4. Cherry Capital Airport – Kevin Klein provided an airport update.  
January and February travelers 800/day  
March and April travelers 37/day  
May travelers 70/day  
Staffing is down to 25-30%  
Financially revenue has dropped drastically, however through the CARES Act 14.8 million dollars will be provided over the next 4 years.

Jessica Sullivan asked what EDC could be doing now:

Marty Colburn - communication to elected officials is important

Nate Alger - nothing to be done differently at this time, but suggested someone on the EDC board could look into the available funding and grants for local businesses.

Dennis Arouca – offered his time to look into funding and grants.

Warren Call – Communities that will come out of this best, are the communities that work together, that are on the same page and the leaders deliver the same encouraging things.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Bylaws, Rob Hentschel was to look into the Bylaws. Sullivan and Hentschel discussed this and will wait awhile on the Bylaws update.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None.

**MOVED** by Colburn, seconded by Arouca, to adjourn meeting. **APPROVED unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT** Meeting was adjourned 9:27 AM

DRAFT