

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
August 13, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:34 AM. Chair Sullivan led the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Marty Colburn, Kevin Klein, Jessica Sullivan, Christie Minervini, Dennis Arouca, Rob Hentschel, Chris Forsyth, Keef Morgan, Lisa Emery

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tom Kern, Kevin Endres, Gary Howe

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Hentschel, seconded by Klein, to approve the agenda.

YAYS Colburn, Klein, Minervini, Arouca, Hentschel, Morgan, Sullivan

NAYS

ABSENT Kern, Endres, Howe

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Hentschel, seconded by Minervini, to approve the regular session minutes of 5-18-20

YAYS Colburn, Klein, Minervini, Arouca, Hentschel, Morgan, Sullivan

NAYS

ABSENT Kern, Endres, Howe, Keef

REPORTS / ACTION ITEM

a) Venture North Report: Presented by Laura Galbraith

Galbraith gave background information on Venture North, a partner of Traverse Connect. Focused on providing business loans and assistance to small businesses and to make sure businesses are aware of funds available. Almost \$600,000 in loan funds available to Grand Traverse County. The CDBG Loan Program has created Job Retention Loans to assist businesses. Sullivan asked what the EDC board could be doing to help. Galbraith said being aware of this tool and spreading the word to help area businesses. Arouca asked if Venture North felt they had a handle on the Manufacturing Community, as he could set up an opportunity for Galbraith to present to them. Galbraith looked forward to that opportunity.

b) CAR Conference Update

Dennis Arouca - was not able to attend. There was a large number of participants. Arouca will report back when he has more information on the conference.

c) Covid 19 Update

CITY, Marty Colburn – Economic development continues - EGLE loans, Brownfield. The fiber bugs has been worked out and are in beta testing now. The pandemic has shown as well as increased the need for broadband in the community. 8th street projects are going well and moving forward. City goals and initiatives are being set. There are many different projects the City is working on

COUNTY, Rob Hentschel and Chris Forsyth – The county has been working on online permitting for construction code and East Bay Township. The launch was set back due to Covid 19. The public launch should be happening shortly with intentions of adding more departments, such as soil erosion, addressing and DPW. Sullivan asked, what other online portals the County has been looking at. Forsyth shared that along with the construction permitting, the county is working with the County Clerk looking at Ottawa County's online marriage licenses and DBA's formats. We are also working with the treasurer for online dog licenses. Morgan asked if the County was working with the City on the construction permits? Or is it strictly county? Forsyth stated that East Bay is currently the only township working with this online permitting. Waiting to see how things work out with East Bay and hope to work with more Townships and the City.

AIRPORT, Kevin Klein – Operational stats for July are down about 33-34%, 60.8% down for passengers, down around 46% for the year. August brought the return of some flights, bringing more opportunities for passenger movement. Fall bookings have fallen off some. There is currently an October 1 deadline for funding, waiting to see if it will be extended. The Heals/Heroes Act being worked on an estimated \$10 billion for the airline industry. Cargo shipping is down about 25%. The Great Lakes Equestrian Festival was helpful, bringing in travelers. The Cares Act will provide about 26 months of coverage, waiting on final grant paperwork for airport improvement. EGLE grant and small state grants in the last 4 months have provided approx. \$18,000,000 for improvements. We are moving forward. Hertz rental cars has filed for bankruptcy. Waiting on income from the airlines to come in, have not received money from airlines since late January.

Sullivan asked for suggestions on what the EDC Board could be doing during this time? Minervini suggested that translating numbers regarding development and how it will benefit the community is needed. To know what investment, recruiting and retaining will mean for the City. Colburn shared the need for childcare, transportation and housing (not the current mission on Traverse Connect)

d) Community Development Coalition of Northwest Michigan

Sullivan Discussed the Community Development Coalition of Northwest Michigan. Made up of regional organizations focused on improving economic, societal and environmental outcomes for Northern Michigan. Sullivan asked, what are resources the EDC has available and what can we be doing to help.

Colburn – Networks Northwest and the EDO, are all partnering

Hentschel – as things are and have been in the past, our relationship is similar to a Consultant. There is a need for a person representing Grand Traverse County, a consultant to work with townships businesses, work on developing and gathering information so we understand what is going on in the county.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws discussion will be held off until sometime next year per Sullivan and Hentschel

OTHER BUSINESS

Chris Forsyth reminded the board of a request from the Nov. 14, 2019 EDC meeting regarding

default loans. The response from the board was requesting more information. Forsyth is working with Dean Bott to provide the information requested.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

MOVED by Minervini, seconded by Hentschel, to adjourn meeting.

YAYS Colburn, Klein, Minervini, Arouca, Hentschel, Morgan, Sullivan

NAYS

ABSENT Kern, Endres, Howe

ADJOURNMENT Meeting was adjourned 9:34 AM

DRAFT