

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2016

Members Present:

Jerry Dinges	Robert Trentman
Robert Allen	Rick Vernier
Ken Sharkey	

Members Excused:

Marty Crawford	Frank Heiligenstein
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Staff Present:

Terry Beach, Director
Dorothy Carlisle, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

Fred Boch, County Board Member
Charles Lee, PBC Commissioner
Tim Cantwell, Airport Director
Randy Pierce, reporter

Call to Order:

Chairman Ken Sharkey called the Committee to order at 6:00 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Regarding the Agenda:

Mr. Sharkey asked if anyone present had a question or comment regarding the agenda. There were none.

Approval of the June 16, 2016 Committee Minutes (action required):

Mr. Sharkey called for action on the June 16, 2016 Committee minutes. Mr. Dinges made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report, Information only):

Mr. Sharkey asked the Director to give his report. Mr. Beach updated the committee regarding department activities in the past thirty days including the status of the \$8 million Front Street project that will immediately benefit agribusinesses and their customers. He mentioned that St. Clair County is now host to the "ABCDs" of the agribusiness giants with the addition of the Louis Dreyfus Group (LD Commodities) now on the Cahokia riverfront. (A is ADM in Sauget, B is Bunge in Fairmont City, C is Cargill in East St. Louis, and now D is Louis Dreyfus in Cahokia; all on the riverfront with barge, rail, truck multi-modal access).

Mr. Beach further mentioned that he continues to receive potential leads/prospects looking at sites in Fairmont City in the old Stockyards area since it is the first exit in Illinois off the new bridge.

He also briefly discussed the meetings held in the past thirty days including his attendance at the annual National Summit of the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) held in Washington, DC. (more information: www.defensecommunities.org); meetings with the County's Scott Task Force consultants; and a meeting of the Southwestern Illinois Trade & Investment Council which he attended with County Board Chairman Kern.

New Business (Airport Director's Report, information only):

Mr. Sharkey asked Airport Director Tim Cantwell to give his report. Mr. Cantwell provided handouts detailing the daily records of operations. And he discussed items that were also discussed at the PBC meeting earlier that day including: over 80,000 o/d passengers by mid-July with 125,000 to 130,000 passengers projected by the end of the year; of the 525 passenger airports in the nation, MidAmerica is in the top half for passenger counts; 1.7 million gallons of fuel will be likely sold by the end of the year, mostly to Allegiant Airlines; parking lot remains full most days; and two National Air Cargo (NAC)/National Airlines 747s made several trip to MidAmerica as they gauged various issues related to possible future service. Mr. Cantwell mentioned that each 747 trip resulted in substantial fuel being on-loaded.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Additional comments or questions from the Committee or the Public

There were none.

With no other information to discuss Mr. Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Allen made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Vernier. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.