

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes May 17, 2018

Members Present:

Jerry Dinges	Robert Trentman
Ken Sharkey	Robert Allen
Marty Crawford	

Members Excused:

Frank Heiligenstein	Rick Vernier
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Staff Present:

Terry Beach, Director
Jennifer Little, Executive Assistant/Special Projects Specialist (Grants Department)

Others Present:

Fred Boch, County Board Member
Tim Cantwell, Airport Director

Call to Order:

Chairman 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 April 19, 2018 Committee Minutes (action required):

Mr. Sharkey called for action on the April 19, 2018 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, action required):

Mr. Sharkey asked the Director to give his report. Mr. Beach updated the Committee on department activities and meetings since the April 19, 2018 Committee meeting and other on-going projects. He distributed his monthly report (April 20-May 17, 2018) to the Committee members and others present. In the report he mentioned two new leads/prospects: Project Trigger, a site search for a new R&D facility for a national company; and Projects Rushes, a search for an existing Class A/A- office building. His written report had more details.

He also gave an update on the River Bridge District project. He stated that Phase 1 "Front Street" was 90% complete and Phase 2 "the roundabout by the Casino Queen and nearby streets" had begun construction. Photos were included in his written report.

He reminded the Committee that last month the Committee and the County Board approved changes to the St. Clair County MidAmerica Enterprise Zone (adding territory in Lebanon to assist a new grocery store to be constructed) and our Application has now been sent to the Illinois Department of Commerce. We are awaiting approval.

He also reminded the Committee that last month he included information about the new Southwest Illinois Trade & Investment Council, P.O. Box 24, O'Fallon, IL 62269. www.swillinoistrade.org and the planned July 22-26, 2018 Trade Mission to Mexico City. He stated that Chairman Kern is a Board Member of the Council and that he serves as an ex-officio Board Member. He informed the Committee that on May 15-16th we hosted several foreign consul generals and trade commissioners from several nations that have offices in Chicago. We branded it "Discover Southwest Illinois" and a dinner was held Tuesday evening followed by tours of our area including the Airport. Mr. Beach distributed the attached list of the foreign dignitaries plus photos from the dinner and tour of facilities at MidAmerica Airport including North Bay Produce.

Meetings in the past 30 days that Mr. Beach attended: he spoke (April 20th) to the current class of Leadership Belleville, which is a program of the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce. He speaks every year regarding County economic development activities and initiatives. Airport Engineer Dan Trapp spoke before him regarding Airport activities; as invited guests of St. Louis County, he and County Board Chairman Mark Kern attended the annual St. Louis Economic Development Partnership luncheon at the Chase Park Plaza (April 26th); attended the Joint Review Board (TIF) meeting for the Village of Sauget at the Village Hall (May 1st). Mr. Beach represents the County on all TIF Joint Review Boards; at the request of US Senator Tammy Duckworth's office, he and John Hughes spoke (May 1st) with members of her staff regarding Scott AFB activities; and he and County Board Chairman Kern attended the SW IL Trade & Investment Council's events as shown above (May 15-16th).

Social media: Facebook page has 2,309 "likes" which is +2 since last month and Twitter has 704 "followers" which is + 16 since last month. Mr. Beach continues to post 4-5 times weekly regarding our activities and those of our partners. He also introduced Jennifer Little from the Grants Department who will now be assisting him rather than Dorothy Carlisle in preparation for the Committee meetings.

Mr. Dinges made a motion to accept the Mr. Beach's report and place it on file. The motion was seconded by Mr. Allen. The motion passed. (A copy of the report is a part of these minutes).

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

Airport Director Cantwell was asked to give his report. He distributed and discussed his report. He stated the Airport should reach 300,000 passengers by the end of 2018. He discussed fuel sales, the PBC approval request to make needed parking lot improvements at the Boeing facility, approval of a tractor purchase, and approval of license for Glide Path, Inc.

Glide Path will review and verify feasibility of constructing and operating an alternative energy power production plant on the west side (non-aeronautical compatible land) of the airport. The background paper Mr. Cantwell distributed explained more of their capability. Their schedule for now: producing a viable economic feasibility study is Phase 1. Should this be feasible, Phase 2 would be to enter into lease for land negotiations. Terms for that lease depend on feasibility and have not been contemplated. Counsel has reviewed. Airport will add in County insurance requirements before allowing entry onto land.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

Additional comments or questions from the Committee or the Public

There were no other comments.

With no other information to discuss, Mr. Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Crawford made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Allen. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.