

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes October 17, 2019

Members Present:

Jerry Dinges	Matt Smallheer
Marty Crawford	Robert Trentman
Rick Vernier	

Members Excused:

Ken Sharkey
Robert Allen

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Director
Jennifer Little, Executive Assistant/Special Projects Specialist

Others Present:

Tim Cantwell, Airport Director
May Brown, VFW Veterans & Military Support District 14 Coordinator

Call to Order:

In Chairman Sharkey's absence, Jerry Dinges, Vice Chairman, called the Committee to order at 5:00 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Regarding the Agenda:

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

Approval of the September 19, 2019 Committee Minutes (action required):

Mr. Dinges called for action on the September 19, 2019 Committee minutes. Mr. Smallheer made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Crawford. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report, action required):

Mr. Dinges asked the Director to give his report. Mr. Stubblefield updated the Committee on department activities and meetings since the September 19, 2019 Committee meeting and other on-going projects. He read his monthly report and provided updates (September 20 - October 17, 2019).

St. Clair County continues to work with the US Census Bureau as well as state and local governments to ensure a complete count. Many municipalities have already participated in Complete Count training and are putting their committees together. Mr. Stubblefield is hoping the County can help coordinate those efforts; he believes working at a local level is the best approach to this as they know their populations best; he has contact information for the Census Bureau if any member or municipality needs it.

The American Bottoms Enterprise Zone application has been approved by the state. The American Bottoms Zone was set to expire; East Carondelet has been added. The MidAmerica Enterprise Zone has also been reapproved. The MidAmerica application was amended to include tax abatement.

O'Fallon has given notice that the Council will be dissolving their TIF No. 1 (Rasp Farm) Redevelopment Project Area.

Mr. Stubblefield attended the International Economic Development Council Annual Conference in Indianapolis from October 13th-16th. He focused on a few key areas including the upcoming census and workforce development.

St. Clair County is continuing to work with the St. Louis Regional Freightway team to further enhance their efforts to coordinate regional freight development efforts. The County is especially engaged in workforce development efforts as they pertain to several tenants at Parks Airport. Mr. Stubblefield reminded members Gulfstream is looking to add new workers. He is working diligently with Mary Lamie and Erick Dahl to be the solution to the training they need. Workforce currently has three apprenticeship programs: aviation maintenance, aviation technology, and drone operations which is in the process of being approved by the Department of Labor.

Once again St. Clair County Economic Development was asked to be part of the Metro East Start Up Challenge. St. Clair County is a sponsor of the Challenge which is a \$20,000 cash prize business plan competition to identify, encourage, and reward excellence in entrepreneurship in the St. Louis Metro East region. The SIUE School of Business and Illinois Metro East Small Business Development Center (SBDC) are facilitating the competition.

The St. Clair County Economic Development Department submitted an application for St. Clair County to be named by the Association of Defense Communities as one of the Great American Defense Communities. Every day America's defense communities are working to create welcoming and supportive spaces for service members and their families to live and thrive. As the home to our military, these communities recognize the unique challenges and hard work needed to ensure military families are made to feel valued. The Great American Defense Communities program shines a light on the regions and individuals that are making a difference. The program was designed to recognize and celebrate communities with an exceptional commitment to improving the lives of service members, veterans and their families. Mr. Stubblefield is hopeful and expressed the County has made a strong case. After making it through the first round, ADC held a conference call with Mr. Stubblefield, Christine Sparger with Scott AFB, as well as representatives from the Belleville and Shiloh-O'Fallon Chambers to discuss activities and events done in conjunction with Scott AFB. Tim Cantwell added the Scott runway is closed for 14 months and the County is assisting them. Mr. Stubblefield stated he mentioned that in the conversation with ADC. Rick Vernier asked if that is ongoing. Mr. Cantwell responded yes, until next October. Robert Trentman asked if the base would have had to move units if not for MidAmerica Airport. Mr. Cantwell said yes; the direct cost of moving those units would have been approximately \$15 million dollars.

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Mr. Vernier made the motion to approve the Director's Report and Mr. Smallheer made the second. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Dinges asked the Airport Director to give his report. Mr. Cantwell distributed his monthly running total of passenger counts, fuel sales, and related numbers. He added summer will see 40 flights per week compared to last year's 32 flights per week. Flights are full; 350,000-375,000 passengers come through MidAmerica. He

provided an update regarding the passenger terminal modification and airport master plan. Rick Vernier asked about the completion date. Mr. Cantwell responded 2022. There was discussion regarding Boeing projects at the airport.

New Business:

None

Old Business

None

There were no additional comments or questions from the Committee or the public. Mr. Dinges asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Crawford so moved and it was seconded by Mr. Vernier. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:27 p.m.