

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

19 Public Square, Suite 200
Belleville, IL 62220-1695
Phone: 618-825-3200
www.co.st-clair.il.us
Facebook: StClairCountyEconDev
Twitter: @SCCEconDev



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes January 20, 2022

Members Present:

Ken Sharkey, Chairman
Jerry Dinges, Assistant Chairman
Marty Crawford
Matt Smallheer
Robert Trentman
Rick Vernier

Members Excused:

Robert Allen

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Director
Jennifer Little, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

Bryan Johnson, MidAmerica Airport Director

Call to Order:

Chairman Ken Sharkey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and took roll call.

Public Comment Regarding the Agenda:

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

Approval of the December 16, 2021 Committee Minutes (action required):

Chairman Sharkey called for action on the December 16, 2021 Committee minutes. Mr. Dinges made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Smallheer. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report):

Rick Stubblefield stated work continues with Boeing regarding a training program. He noted steel is going up at the Boeing site and encouraged members to take a look if they have the chance; it is very impressive.

Mr. Stubblefield stated work also continues on the Build, Better, Better grant. He, Bryan Johnson, and Dan Trapp met with Greater STL earlier in the week. Mr. Stubblefield noted the training component is becoming an intricate piece of the way St. Clair County's portion of the grant is going to be presented. He explained it adds to the diversity and inclusion component as well as shows the economic development in this area as a result of light rail going out there. Mr. Stubblefield stated other interest is developing in that area as well.

Mr. Stubblefield stated he is working with the City of O'Fallon to negotiate the development of an intergovernmental agreement which would allow the County and City to work together to apply for grants.

Mr. Stubblefield met with Smith Dawson & Andrews out of Washington D.C.. He stated they continue to bring opportunity for grants and influence. Mr. Stubblefield explained the County did not get the grant two years in a row to redo the road out at the school by Scott AFB. Smith Dawson & Andrews is able to assist the County in reevaluating past applications and distinguish where the County scored high and low; that information and their input will be beneficial on future applications. Mr. Stubblefield expressed he is very optimistic. Chairman Sharkey asked if this is the lobbyist contract approved earlier this year. Mr. Stubblefield responded yes; he noted they are very engaged and are able to provide answers in a hurry.

There were no comments or questions.

New Business (MidAmerica Airport Director's Report):

Bryan Johnson encouraged members to visit the airport as well as the new Boeing manufacturing facility to see the progress of both projects; he expressed the development is significant in our lives and for generations to come. He noted the terminal building expansion is going well and is on schedule. Mr. Johnson anticipates a ribbon cutting or opening in December of 2022 if not sooner. He noted the project has not been significantly impacted by inflationary factors on materials or the logistics of getting materials. He has been working with the contractor to monitor those things very closely.

Mr. Johnson stated PBC approved a procurement of two passenger boarding bridges for the new gates. He noted the cost was \$600,000 less than the engineer's estimate. Mr. Vernier asked if there will be four bridges upon completion. Mr. Johnson responded yes; two bridges will be new and two will be modified. He explained there will be four bridges for six gates; there will be two ground load positions.

Marty Crawford commended Chairman Kern for keeping the airport going despite naysayers and expressed how well the airport is doing now.

New Business (Military Affairs Director Comments):

Kimberly Huth was unable to attend due to a conflict.

Other Comments:

None

Adjournment:

There were no additional comments or questions from the Committee. Chairman Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Vernier so moved and it was seconded by Mr. Trentman. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:10p.m.