

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2024

Members Present:

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

Members Excused:

Robert Allen
Matt Smallheer

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

May Brown

Call to Order:

Chairman Ken Sharkey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 May 8, 2024, Committee Minutes (action required):

Chairman Sharkey called for action on the May 8, 2024, Committee minutes. Mr. Vernier made the motion to approve the minutes, which were seconded by Mr. Trentman. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report):

Mr. Rick Stubblefield stated that HUD's Regional Administrator, Diane Shelly and Senior Advisor to the Acting Secretary, Adrienne Todman, will be visiting the county on June 26th and 27th. The purpose of the visit is for the county and HUD/Federal Partners to have discussions concerning the County's needs and concerns. This visit is not focused on flooding or the Disaster Recovery Grant but rather the opportunity to discuss long term visions including affordable housing, transportation, etc. The focus will be on building the County's relationships with state and federal partners.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that there continues to be lots of manufacturing interest throughout the county.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that Boeing has changed their training plan for St. Clair County. Boeing will be going back to St. Louis Community College through no fault of Southwestern Illinois College. He also stated this does cause them to have to rewrite their training grant.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that Chris Anderson and Karen Latta attended the Illinois Enterprise Zone Conference in Springfield, IL. St. Clair County administers two Enterprise Zones: MidAmerica and American Bottoms.

There were no further comments or questions.

New Business (MidAmerica Airport Director's Report):

Mr. Darren James stated that service to Knoxville, TN starts tomorrow and will run through the end of the year. They gave notice to Holland Construction to precede with the construction of the general aviation facility and the federal inspection station. They received a notice of selection for congressionally directed spending from Senator Duckworth. Last month, 3 projects were submitted, and they were selected for the same construction. Mr. Stubblefield asked how the ticket sales were going for Knoxville. Mr. James responded that currently selling 70 tickets or about half of the plane which is par for the course.

There were no further comments or questions.

New Business (Military Affairs Director Comments):

Ms. Kimberly Huth stated that she worked with SAFB and the Leadership Council and hosted a job fair at the Regency in O'Fallon, IL. This year they had over 150 people sign up. SAFB hosted a symposium over the last 2 days with local emergency management, national drone companies and unmanned vehicle companies. The Military Economic Development meeting in Springfield, IL will be hosted by the Lieutenant Governor on the 26th of this month. There is a small business organization that has a contract with Air Mobility Command that is also working with SIUE to get employees into the government with paid internships. Base visits for the KC-46 decision should be announced sometime this month. Mr. Stubblefield asked if there was any idea how that was going. Ms. Huth responded that she does not believe SAFB will be visited.

There were no further comments or questions.

Mr. Dinges made a motion to approve all the Director's reports and Mr. Vernier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Comments:

Adjournment:

Chairman Sharkey 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 5:19 p.m.