

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes May 8, 2024

Members Present:

Ken Sharkey, Chairman
Robert Trentman
Matt Smallheer
Rick Vernier

Members Excused:

Jerry Dinges, Assistant Chairman
Marty Crawford
Robert Allen

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 April 10, 2024, Committee Minutes (action required):

Chairman Sharkey called for action on the April 10, 2024, Committee minutes. Mr. Smallheer made the motion to approve the minutes, which were seconded by Mr. Trentman. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report):

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the Community Development Block Grant Action Plan for the Disaster Recovery Grant was approved. They are putting together a matrix for all the funding for East St. Louis and Cahokia Heights. He also stated they will be working with the Corps of Engineers on inclusion of all areas in the county.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that he recently took another tour of Boeing with the Belleville Chambers Leadership Belleville class. He expressed how impressed he was with the building.

Mr. Stubblefield stated there is interest in expanding the MidAmerica Enterprise Zone in Lebanon. There are 2 projects interested in the area and one of them is a \$6 million sports complex center.

Mr. Venier asked if the expansion was on route 4. Mr. Stubblefield explained that the area encompasses McKendree University.

There were no further comments or questions.

New Business (MidAmerica Airport Director's Report):

Mr. James stated that the airport recently celebrated 25 years of operations. They have submitted 3 projects to their congressional delegation. Those projects include the second phase of the federal inspection station for international travel, Airport Blvd road maintenance and the Metrolink covered walkway. Mr. Sharkey asked if the estimated cost of each of those items was known. Mr. James responded that the federal inspection station is approximately a \$25 million project. The first phase is \$15 million and the second phase is \$10 million. They have received \$3.25 million for the first phase and submitted a request for \$4 million for the second phase. \$1.3 million was requested for the road maintenance and \$4 million for the walkway. Mr. James also stated that they received bids within the engineering estimates for the terminal expansion project. That project will be a 15,000 square yard expansion and will add 3 additional spots to their apron.

New Business (Military Affairs Director Comments):

Ms. Huth stated that there is currently no update on the KC-46 base visit decision. She also stated that they have been working to connect St. Clair County Emergency Management and S.A.F.B. on a computer program that will do predictive analysis. The program will inform them of the impact of any possible flooding issues.

Other Comments:

Mr. Vernier inquired if Boeing and Gulfstream have opened an additional building at the CAVE. Mr. Stubblefield stated that the CAVE has partnered with Gulfstream to expand the back end of the CAVE for training in repairing aircraft engines.

Adjournment:

Chairman Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Vernier so moved and it was seconded by Mr. Smallheer. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:19 p.m.