

**Lansing Economic Development Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 7, 2021 – 8:30 AM
THIS MEETING WAS HELD ELECTRONICALLY*
Access the meeting via: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84053285405>
Webinar ID: 840 5328 5405; Dial In (301) 715-8592
*See attached Public Participation Notes.**

Members Present: Calvin Jones (Lansing, MI), Andrea Binoniemi (Beulah, MI), Tom Muth (East Lansing, MI), Blake Johnson (Grand Ledge, MI), Brian McGrain (Lansing, MI), Tom Donaldson (Lansing, MI), Shelley Davis-Boyd (East Lansing, MI)

Members Absent: Kimberly Coleman

Staff Present: Karl Dorshimer, Kris Klein, Hannah Bryant, Rachel McIlvaine, Jennifer Abood Morris

Guests: Julie Durham – Public Sector Consultant

Call to Order / Rollcall / Meeting Process

Chair Jones called the LEDC Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Chair Jones stated the reasons the meeting was taking place virtually, and that all board members and the public are participating virtually. Klein took roll call and noted that members need to declare the city and state they are participating from. Klein went through the meeting process which included the participation rules for board members and the public.

Approval of LEDC Board Meeting Minutes – Friday, April 9, 2021

MOTION: McGrain moved to approve the LEDC meeting minutes from the Friday, April 9, 2021, LEDC Board of Director's meeting, as presented. Motion seconded by Muth.

Klein took a roll call vote, record as:

Calvin Jones - yea
Andrea Binoniemi - yea
Tom Muth - yea
Blake Johnson - yea
Brian McGrain - yea
Tom Donaldson – yea
Davis-Boyd - yea

YEAS: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Update on Financials

Jennifer Abood Morris provided an update on the March 31st, 2021 financials and stated the finances

are in good shape and all loans are current. The interest is continuing to be low due to the current economic status. Additionally, Jennifer stated we are already in Q4 and will discussed at the next meeting.

Economic Recovery Resource Developer Quarterly Update

Klein provided an overview of the Economic Recovery Resources Developer and the contract between the city and the LEDC. Klein introduced Julie who is from Public Sector Consultant and will provide the quarterly update. They were hired in December to add capacity specifically to the downturn to the pandemic. Julie walked through the report that was provided in the Board's packet. Member Binoniemi and McGrain thanked Julie for the thorough report and all the work she is doing for these opportunities. Dorshimer stated how great of a partnership it is between the LEDC and the city for these services. Chair Jones said thank you to Julie and offered if there is anything the board can do in the efforts to let us know.

Façade Improvement Program Amendment #4 (Action)

Bryant provided an overview of the resolution in the packet to extend out the current façade program contract to the end of the year. This is due to some projects not being done by the June 30th date, but also because there are some funds left from the current contract. The city is considering approving more funds for the façade program this coming fiscal year budget. This will help relieve some issues we have seen with applicants starting the façade program application in the middle of summer, and by doing it by calendar year it will give applicants time in the late winter months to get quotes and schedule time for construction to occur in the summer.

MOTION: Donaldson moved to approve the Façade Improvement Program Amendment #4, as presented. Motion seconded by Binoniemi.

Klein took a roll call vote, record as:

Calvin Jones - yea
Andrea Binoniemi - yea
Tom Muth - yea
Blake Johnson - yea
Brian McGrain - yea
Tom Donaldson – yea
Davis-Boyd - yea

YEAS: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Site Committee Update

Dorshimer provided an update on the first site committee meeting that took place yesterday, May 6th. Discussion was around current sites available in the city of Lansing and was able to pull a map up of all owned properties in the city. Donaldson asked about the Racer Trust sites in the city due to the city not having a lot of large acre sites within the city of limits.

Program Update

a) Lansing CARES

McIlvaine provided updates on the program, including that the preapplications will be closing Sunday, May 9 at midnight. Announcements have been made to make sure applicants apply for the program if they still want to, but intake of applications have significantly slowed down. Klein shared that the committee have been meeting every week the last three weeks and have reviewed about a dozen applications, 8 of those have been approved. Once a public announcement is made the board will receive a better update on the awards. The contract for this program is a two-year contract, so the next step for this program is providing additional technical assistance to business owners with financials and information. Klein provided a big thank you for the loan committee for their time and expertise in the reviewing.

b) Sunrise Grant Program – Ingham County

Dorshimer shared updates on the Ingham County wide program, which is an \$11 million grant program that LEAP will work on and help design the program. Dorshimer stated that our staff will support the Lansing businesses with their applications and will direct Lansing CARES applicants to the new program in the time being. The Sunrise program would be launched in June and more information can be provided at the next meeting.

c) One&All

Bryant provided an update on the LEAP One&All Program and shared the 3rd cohort just started this week, where there are 19 new entrepreneurs that will take part in the 2-month program training. 15 out of the 19 are city of Lansing entrepreneurs that are taking part in the program and 68% of the participants are women. The Board can see more information from LEAP, that released a press release on the new cohort and there was a LSJ article on Wednesday that talks about the 3rd cohort.

Project Updates

Dorshimer walked through the LEDC current project updates. Discussion ensued on projects and the downtown status. Donaldson asked if there is a way to have CBRE present their information on vacancy rates and the current real estate status in Lansing. Dorshimer stated yes and it could go to the site committee first, then presented to the LEDC. Chair Jones asked for an update on the Red Cedar project at the next meeting.

Open Forum for LEDC Board Members

Chair Jones stated that on April 26th, the Lansing City Council extended Mayor Schor's Declaration of Emergency through July 12th, 2021 due to the ongoing public health concerns of the pandemic. Therefore, meetings of this body will remain virtual for the time being. Officers and staff will continue monitoring guidance from health officials and local governments on when it is appropriate to return to in-person meetings and prepare necessary accommodations for that eventuality. The Board will be updated and consulted in advance of any changes to the current meeting format.

Other Business

None was provided.

Public Comment

None was provided.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Jones declared the LEDC Board of Director's meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.



Karl Dorshimer, Director of Economic Development
Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP)