
MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Executive Committee Minutes

July 18, 2023

9 am – 12 pm

Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel, 100 W. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Or Virtually via Zoom

Members Present & Virtual Attendance:

Beth Ardisana	Awenate Cobbina
Santa Ono	Tony Tomczak
Krista Flynn	Bobby Hopewell
Tom Lutz	Bill Pink
Brian Rich	Gina Thorsen
Mike McLauchlan	LaJune Montgomery Tabron
Beverly Walker Griffea	Fay Beydoun
April Clobes	

Members Absent:

Phil Shaltz	Kyle Caldwell
Robert McMahan	Sheldon Neeley
Ryan Waddington	

Staff Present:

Amiee Evans	Michele Wildman
Steve Bakkal	Matt McCauley
Lynne Feldpausch	Michele Wildman
Christin Armstrong	Quentin Messer
Jen Nelson	Jill Trepkoski
Amy Rencher	
Michelle Grinnell	
Linda Ascitutto	

I. Call to order

Mr. Cobbina called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. He requested that Ms. Armstrong provide any necessary communications. There were no communications. A roll call was performed to determine attendance. A quorum of the Executive Committee was declared present. The meeting was held at the Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel, 100 W. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Members of the Executive Committee, MEDC staff, and the public could also participate virtually via Zoom.

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II. Public Comment

Mr. Cobbina invited public comment. Mayor David Anderson provided comments welcoming the Executive Committee to the City of Kalamazoo. Ms. Marjorie Steele provided comments regarding the statewide mega site investments.

III. Chairman's Report

Mr. Cobbina asked if there were any questions, changes, or corrections to the May 9, 2023, minutes. There were none. *Bobby Hopewell moved to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2023 meeting and Brian Rich supported the motion. A vote was taken with 15 aye votes, 0 nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Cobbina welcomed Dr. Santa Ono to the Executive Committee.

IV. Finance Subcommittee Report

Ms. Ardisana provided a review of our current financial statements, indicating the organization remains financially strong. Ms. Jill Trepkoski provided a financial overview as well as an update on the FY24 state budget.

V. CEO Report

Mr. Messer provided general organizational updates and recent news on positive rankings for Michigan's business climate. Ms. Amy Rencher provided an update on the small business programming, Ms. Amiee Evans, Mr. Steve Bakkal, and Mr. Tupac Hunter provided an overview of the economic development legislative workgroup and the economic development tools that being discussed in the workgroup. Mr. Fred Molnar and Mr. Bakkal provided an update on the entrepreneurship and innovation programming. Ms. Michele Wildman and Mr. Matt McCauley provided an overview and update of the community development and placemaking programs.

VI. Open Discussion

Mr. Cobbina opened up the floor for any open discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.