

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
April 11, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. in the Commission Chambers located on the second floor of the Governmental Center and led the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Warren Call, Kevin Klein, Nate Alger, Marty Colburn, Keef Morgan, Sonny Wheelock, Richard Lewis, Jessica Sullivan, Dennis Arouca, Keef Morgan

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Naughton, Christian Smith

Chairman Call announced that due his new position with TraverseConnect, he will no longer be able to serve on the Board and will be sending in his resignation at the end of today's meeting. Sullivan will chair the next meeting and a vice- chair will be elected.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Arouca, seconded by Alger to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Wheelock, seconded by Coburn to approve the minutes of 2-14-19 as distributed. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS / ACTION ITEMS

1. Traverse Connect Status Report Update:

Warren gave a brief update regarding the community buying into the plan for an EDO and explained TraverseConnect's part in going forward. Since the current EDC web site has a lot of great information showcased, he would like to link to that information on their summary page.

Alger indicated that there were a few things that needed to be updated, so we will contact Christian to make sure the information is current and have no objection to TraverseConnect linking to that site.

Warren also suggested that the phone number on the site be the TraverseConnect number. The board took no action but had no objection to that suggestion.

EDC Board Positions were discussed earlier and will be on next month's agenda.

2. CAR (Center for Automotive Research) Conference Planning:

Arouca presented the information from 2018 and what is anticipated for 2019.

For this year, he suggested continuing with the booth which was very well received. He spoke about the the highlights for this year and indicated that Cowell will be a speaker.

Warren proposed that the EDC consider funding for this year and he will fund afterward. He also indicated that his staff would be available to man the booth.

MOVED by Lewis, seconded by Arouca to approve funding the booth rental for this year in the amount of \$7,500.00, and authorize the chair and/or vice chair to sign the agreement. APPROVED unanimously.

Arouca will provided more information for the next meeting regarding additional amounts which could include assisting with funding for the after hours reception to which we provided \$5,000 last year. Also, although Warren's staff will be available for the booth, additional attendance could require sponsorship.

It was also suggested that the Visitor's & Convention Bureau and Pure Michigan might be good contacts for additional funding.

3. Fourth Economy Consultant Update:

Warren referenced the information on page 15 about the consultant. The consultants were here on March 18 and 19 and met with the steering committee and met with the stakeholders. The consultant did their homework ahead of time but it was extremely valuable for them to see the community and speak with everyone.

The timeline is to gather information through the summer which will result in a recommendation to consider by mid-September. That recommendation will serve as the TraverseConnect plan going forward.

All involved are encouraged to take part in the workshop which will take place at Hagerty on May 8th @ 8:30 a.m.. There will also be an evening networking/social event at the Hagerty garage that evening. After that, Fourth Economy will be in touch to schedule conversations with all stakeholders.

OTHER BUSINESS

Arouca spoke regarding his letter referencing the disbanding of the EDC. Chair Call responded that was not the case and there would still be a need for the EDC for funding, etc..

Discussion continued regarding what the EDC and EDO might look like going forward. Sullivan hopes that could be covered in our strategic plan at end of year.

Morgan added that what Traverse City and the EDC is doing and the public/private partnership being developed is, from what he's experienced, is the model which has the most positive successful outcomes.

The memo from Hammersley was presented regarding loans that have been in default for awhile. An initial review was done to see what might be collected.

EDC has a subrecipient agreement with Venture North since 2014 but nothing says they were responsible for previously issued loans. County serviced from 2009-2013.

The majority of organizations have filed for bankruptcy and the next step would be to do a limited investigation to look in details and determine if any assets are available which is anticipated to take less than 10 hours per Hammersley.

Chris Forsyth and Dean Bott reported and can provide review and analysis going forward. There are no outstanding reporting reports and the last once was in December of 2018.

MOVED by Sullivan, seconded by Coburn to direct counsel to move forward with a little more investigating to pursue details and present information to a future closed session. APPROVED unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m..