

**MINUTES  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
January 21, 2015 – Regular Meeting**

The Economic Development Corporation of the City of Farmington Hills held its Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, in the Community Room at City Hall. Chairman Anhut called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Members present: Anhut, Brock, Elliott, Gatewood, Hartsock and Jacknow

Members absent: Johnson, Marcellino and Sarafa

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION by Jacknow, support by Elliott, to approve the agenda as published.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION by Jacknow, support by Gatewood, to approve the regular and annual meeting minutes of December 17, 2014 as published.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chair Anhut said he would defer discussing meeting dates until all Board members were present.

Chair Anhut recalled that at the December meeting the EDC voted unanimously to be in support of the Georgetown University project. He encouraged the Board to continue their support of the project, and complimented Mr. Geinzer on the event that was held the previous evening regarding the project.

Mr. Geinzer spoke about the kick-off event held at the Costick Center. He said over 125 people were in attendance. Dave Rexroth did a good job as master of ceremonies; and the keynote opening was provided by Jack Lessenberry. Mr. Geinzer played a three-minute clip by Mr. Lessenberry, who spoke about the community effort toward the Georgetown University competition, to be awarded to the community who best reduces energy consumption over the competition period.

Mr. Geinzer said the clip of Mr. Lessenberry will be available on the City's website; and it emphasized the determination of the Farmington Hills, Farmington, and Farmington Public Schools and their impressive plans. He said Mr. Lessenberry's commentary addresses a practical approach to energy conservation that connects people on a personal and cost-savings level. He said the message is to make energy savings a painless and permanent way of life.

Mr. Geinzer discussed the support received from both Consumers Energy and DTE. He said the two utilities have provided a significant level of cooperation. He said Michigan Saves was offering financing programs that are attractive and available to all sectors of the community.

Mr. Geinzer said American Idol singer Jena Irene, from Farmington Hills, sang at the closing of the event. He said the event was perfectly sized for people to connect regarding the goal of the competition.

Mr. Geinzer said the next plan was to schedule different training opportunities for the community. He said correspondence would be sent out to the various homeowners' associations. He said they are strong, active and significant in number. They would be provided with resources and information in order to bring people together in their neighborhoods in block-party fashion.

Discussion took place regarding increasing social media exposure. Mr. Geinzer said the City's Facebook page has over 300 'likes'; and the E-newsletter continued to grow. Discussion took place the 'pocketbook approach'; and that Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy recently applied for another rate increase.

Mr. Geinzer spoke about potential increases in energy rates, and the multiple things that come into play regarding rates, the cost of energy and the delivery of energy. He mentioned their need to replace aging infrastructure and equipment, and that some sub stations have issues as well. Mr. Geinzer said they are under increasing pressure, particularly in light of last year's power outages.

Discussion ensued regarding cost savings obtained by dialing down by even as little as two degrees. Mr. Geinzer said the utility companies have opened up their resources, and have each contributed \$40,000 toward the kick-off of the project.

Chair Anhut said the Wynset Condominium association has scheduled a meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. He invited Mr. Geinzer to attend and answer some questions regarding the project. Chair Anhut asked Mr. Elliott to check with his homeowner's association. He said a lot of things were happening at Botsford Hospital; and Dr. LaCasse indicated commitment to the project; as well as the Catholic parishes in the area.

Mr. Geinzer mentioned his involvement with Bosch, and the contact there is Andrew Wolfe who is active in helping move projects forward. He mentioned things such as the STEM curricula through the Nature Center, in-class programs, and two upcoming summer camps that will provide tangible benefits to the students.

Discussion took place regarding plumbing contractors, the support of AJ Danboise, home energy audits, and the newer technology that allows people to adjust their home thermostats using their cell phones off-site.

Discussion ensued regarding possible involvement with the Goodfellows; how to reach the rental property owners in the area; and a program that targets single-family homeowners.

Mr. Geinzer spoke about funding needed for the youth energy squad for lower income neighborhoods for low level energy assessment and direct installations. He said it will impact up to 250 homes each summer; with two teams that include 10-20 youths. He said it was a great program, the participants learn a lot that can apply to vocations and trades, especially if college is not an option for some students.

Mr. Geinzer gave a brief update on the Corridor Improvement Authority regarding Grand River Avenue. He said things were moving forward and there were many activities going on. He spoke about the development of a Tax Increment Financing plan that was in place, with plans approved this past fall by the City.

Discussion took place regarding reactivating the Rouge River, a hidden gem behind Grand River Avenue. He provided a flyer regarding same. Mr. Geinzer said it is a priority as is a critical asset to the corridor. The River was included in the original Corridor Improvement Authority plan.

Chair Anhut thanked Mr. Geinzer for the information he shared with the Board.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Anhut spoke about Beaumont Health recently hiring John Fox as their new CEO. He said Botsford Hospital was not included on a list of hospitals cited for patient safety concerns. He told the Board about two Farmington Hills detectives who were recently honored for solving a 1993 murder case.

Mr. Hartsock spoke briefly about current ups and downs of the financial market.

Mr. Elliott said 2014 was a good year for commercial real estate sales in southeast Michigan. He said activity up all over the region, and good things were happening in Farmington Hills. He said DTE just sold their old call center in Southfield.

Ms. Jacknow said CPA's were currently very active in their busy tax season.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**MOTION by Hartsock, support by Brock, to accept the financial report for December, 2014, as published.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Anhut said the next Economic Development Corporation meeting is on February 18<sup>th</sup>, which conflicts with the State of the Cities breakfast hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. He suggested the Board cancel the meeting for February.

**MOTION by Jacknow, support by Brock, to cancel the February 18, 2015 Economic Development Corporation meeting.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Anhut said the next meeting will be on March 18, 2015.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Anhut adjourned the meeting at 8:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, City Manager Steve Brock  
Secretary, Economic Development Corporation