



CITY OF ALLEGAN
Economic Development Corporation
Griswold Auditorium
401 Hubbard Street, Allegan MI 49010
Monday, April 8, 2013 12:00N

I. Call to Order

Chairman Kowalski called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

II. Attendance

Present: Deb Leverage, Jeff McLaughlin, Jim Freeman, Ed Kowalski, Lovedia Stap, Mike Walsh

Absent: Rachel McKenzie, Craig vanMelle, Sheila Dever

Others

Present: Robert Hillard, Dan Chilla, Tom Hardin

III. Approval of the Previous Minutes

D. Leverage, supported by L. Stap, made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2013. Motion passed by acclamation.

IV. Old Business

1. 2013/14 AEDC Goals and Tasks.....DISCUSSION

R. Hillard reviewed the goals and tasks as developed over the last nine months with a variety of groups related to economic development. Chairman Kowalski solicited comments regarding the goals and direction. The AEDC discussed some of the specific goals and tasks. The AEDC will discuss the list again at the next meeting and prioritize, and develop objectives, which can be impacted by the AEDC and sub-committees.

2. AEDC Day and Time.....DECISION

The AEDC discussed the need to change the day and time for the AEDC. After discussion, the group decided to meet the first Wednesday of the month, at 12:00N.

3. Riverfront Development Process.....UPDATE

R. Hillard reminded the AEDC about the presentation for the riverfront design to be held on April 11, 2013, at 7:00P, at the Griswold. He emphasized the importance of the meeting and support by the community.

4. Allegan County College Access Network.....DISCUSSION

R. Hillard indicated he has volunteered to participate on the Allegan County College Access Network Committee in order to raise the awareness of the importance of college education and certifications after high school. He indicated that he will continue to keep the AEDC informed. The AEDC discussed the value of this effort through AAESA.

5. Redevelopment Ready Community Program – May 13, 2013 – 7:00P....UPDATE

R. Hillard requested the members of the AEDC attend the May 13, 2013, Council meeting to listen to the presentation from the State regarding the RRC program. After applying to the State MEDC, Allegan was selected as one of the Elite Eight, including cities like Ann Arbor and Lansing, to participate in the program.

6. Positively Allegan Website.....UPDATE

D. Leverage reviewed the website and its value to the community. J. McLaughlin discussed the process and the committee effort to make a positive difference in the community. R. Hillard and J. McLaughlin will get together to discuss informing the participants. R. Hillard asked if members could please review the website and offer comments.

V. New Business

VII. Minutes and Reports

*Positively Allegan (Rachel, Deb, Jeff)

The AEDC reviewed the activity conducted by the Committee.

*Restructuring Committee (Lovedia, Craig, Mike, Jim)

The AEDC reviewed the activity conducted by the Committee. Lovedia discussed the progress made on the community investment summary and emphasized the positive statistics the community should better understand related to the schools, hospital, etc. The AEDC discussed the importance of this document and asked a variety of questions.

*Aesthetics Committee (Deb, Lovedia)

The Committee will be meeting on April 17, 2013, at 7:00P, at the Griswold to discuss the City “Welcome” signs and the Positively Allegan website.

*Downtown Development Authority (Lovedia, Tom, Rachel, Deb)

The EDC reviewed the activity conducted by the DDA.

*Highland Business Park - Architectural Control Committee (Mike)

M. Walsh indicated that Charter Cable has been installed and five businesses in the park signed up for improved service.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06P. The next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2013, at 12:00N, at the Griswold Auditorium.

Respectfully Submitted - Robert Hillard - City Manager