



**CITY OF ALLEGAN**  
**Economic Development Corporation**  
**Griswold Auditorium**  
**401 Hubbard Street, Allegan MI 49010**  
**Wednesday, May 1, 2013**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Kowalski called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

**II. Attendance**

Present: Deb Leverence, Jeff McLaughlin, Ed Kowalski, Lovedia Stap, Sheila Dever

Absent: Rachel McKenzie, Craig vanMelle, Jim Freeman, Mike Walsh

Others

Present: Robert Hillard, Dan Chilla, Tom Hardin, Nora Balgoyen-Williams

**III. Approval of the Previous Minutes**

L. Stap, supported by J. McLaughlin, made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 8, 2013. Motion passed by acclamation.

**IV. Old Business**

1. Positively Allegan Logo Contest Winner

The Positively Allegan Committee reviewed over 47 submittals, and selected the entry from Gary Cronkhite. The logo presented the "Positively Allegan" words, with a fountain design in the center to enhance the imagery. Comments relayed by the committee are that it is simple, fun and inviting. The formal press announcement will be held May 10, 2013, at 10:00A, at the Allegan County Fair. All are invited to attend. The AEDC discussed copy right options. This will be discussed at the next Positively Allegan Committee. Also, the AEDC discussed the Positively Allegan website. The members were encouraged to get the word out about the site, and to have everyone submit articles and events. The Positively Allegan Committee is overseeing the website, and continues to seek input.

2. Allegan Area Asset Summary

The AEDC/DDA Restructuring Committee prepared an Allegan Area Asset Summary for review by the AEDC. The document is intended to educate everyone on community assets the value of investing in Allegan. L. Stap discussed the document and what the committee learned as a result. R. Hillard invited members to review and make suggestions to enhance the document.

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

The AEDC was invited to attend the State presentation of the RRC program on May 13, 2013, at 7:00P, during the City council meeting. 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.

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

R. Hillard and Nora Balgoyen-Williams have 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

5. 2013 AEDC Goals

The EDC reviewed the goals and objectives as presented. An update was provided and it was agreed the goals will be discussed at future meetings.

**V. New Business**

1. Riverfront Development Process.....UPDATE

R. Hillard announced the final meeting of the riverfront design will be held June 18, 2013, at 7:00P, at the Griswold Auditorium. A volunteer fair is being coordinated as well, to invite individuals to be a part of the future of Allegan. Details will be forthcoming.

2. Michigan Works! Customized Training Grant

N. Balgoyen Williams announce the Allegan/Kent County received a \$200,000 grant for customized training. She is getting the word out around the County about this opportunity. It is generally a 50/50 grant opportunity for businesses. Also, she discussed the recent restructuring of business outreach through Michigan Works! The AEDC congratulated her on the grant success.

## **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. T. Harden discussed the planning grant applied to the State for a restaurant in Downtown Allegan. Also, the committee discussed the potential purchase of the bank building in Downtown Allegan for City Hall, restrooms and housing. The public hearing to discuss with City Council is May 13, 2013, at 7:00P.

\*Aesthetics Committee (Deb, Lovedia)

The Committee will be meeting on May 15, 2013, at 7:00P, at the Griswold to discuss the airport signs and service group sign additions to the new signs.

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

The EDC reviewed the activity conducted by the DDA.

\*Highland Business Park - Architectural Control Committee (Mike)

R. Hillard provided an update to the business activity in the Highland Business Park.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07P. The next meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2013, at 12:00N, at the Griswold Auditorium.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Hillard  
City Manager

Respectfully Submitted - Robert Hillard - City Manager