

Newaygo Economic Development Organization  
Minutes 4/21/17

Scott Faulkner called the Newaygo Economic Development Organization (NEDO) Meeting to order at 11:38 am at The Stream located at 1 State Rd, Newaygo MI 49337. Kim Goodin acted as recording secretary.

NEDO Board Members Present:

Ron Armstrong, Jon Bumstead, Scott Faulkner, Ed Fedell, George Heartwell, Del Hirdes, Eric Johnson, Krista Looman, Cory Nelson, Larry Lethorn

NEDO Board Members Absent:

Bill Johnson

Introductions:

NEDO Board and Guests introduced themselves.

Meeting Minutes January:

Motion by Fedell, supported by Hirdes to approve meeting minutes from January 13, 2017.  
AIF/MC

Grand Rapids Learning Trip Overview:

Faulkner discussed Grand Rapids Learning trip that many NEDO Board Members took on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Group visited with Grand Rapids Mayor Bliss, other City Departments and proceeded to The Right Place. Faulkner stated Grand Rapids is always working on "growing" the City.

Hot Topic of the Day for Discussion-City of Newaygo Master Plan & Zoning Ordinances:

Faulkner discussed the Grand Rapids Master Plan being reviewed & revised every couple of years. He stated Newaygo needs to review and revise their Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance. He discussed many aspects that are affected by City Master Plan including: government utilities, Planning Commission, citizens, businesses, City Council, Tourism Council, The Right Place/NCEDO, Zoning Ordinances, Economic Development Strategy, Recreation Plan and Capital Improvement Plan. Faulkner suggested NEDO Board work with Jon Schneider, City Manager and City Council on reviewing and revising Newaygo Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance in the near future. He discussed metrics The Right Place is utilizing and would like NEDO to review and consider including those metrics that would be appropriate for Newaygo.

The Walkable City:

Looman discussed "Walkable City" book by Jeff Speck. She spoke about Walk Scores for each City which is a reflection of how easy it is to get around without a car. Newaygo has a Walk Score of "51" out of "100." Looman feels Newaygo's Walk Score could be higher, but feels current uptown vs. downtown affects this score. Group discussed people looking for walkable areas. Heartwell discussed Author, Jeff Speck touring Grand Rapids. Looman stated a copy of

“Walkable City” book was given to each NEDO Board Member and would encourage all to read prior to next meeting. Looman and Heartwell to reach out to Author Jeff Speck and request a meeting in Newaygo.

Bold Idea-The Integrated Manufacturing Support Campus:

Faulkner and group discussed a campus that would provide complete walkability to core life activities. For Newaygo, this may mean creating a carefully planned “campus” to include the Industrial Park and surrounding areas along with our two retail districts.

Project Updates:

- A. Stream Operations-Faulkner stated some changes were made at The Stream.
- B. Riverfront Development-Faulkner stated Muskegon River Holding Company purchased the 220 acres located in the Riverfront Development. Chris Ortwein, partner with Muskegon River Holding Company, updated group on project.
- C. Leppinks-Faulkner introduced Rich Cole, co-owner of Leppinks. Cole updated group on history of Leppinks, and current building progress. He stated they will be holding a job fair in near future and expect to employ 60-70 employees in the Newaygo location.
- D. Muskegon River Inn-Faulkner stated Jay and Heather Allen purchased Antique Mall and plan to add 7 hotel rooms on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Project anticipated starting this summer or fall.
- E. City-wide Wi-Fi (iServe)-Faulkner discussed City-wide Wi-Fi and will work with TIFA on funding.
- F. Digital Works-Colleen Buckley stated 1<sup>st</sup> Digital Works class started April 17<sup>th</sup> with 6 students and has 24 additional individuals that have completed initial orientation. She discussed Fremont Area Foundation “Pay for Success” Grant that is helping fund Digital Works over 2 years with goal of self-sustainable at end of 2 years.
- G. Old Jensen’s Property/Corner M-37 & Barton-Faulkner stated this building has been purchased and will be demolished. New Fireworks Store to be built on this property.
- H. One-Fit Life-Faulkner spoke about One-Fit Life, a new Fitness Business in Newaygo and stated they are working with Commission on Aging in regards to a new fitness program and classes.
- I. Dragon Trail-Faulkner updated group on progress with Dragon Trail, a 48 mile non-motorized path around Hardy Dam.

Invited Guests-Strata Presentation:

James Barr & Peter Boehm, from Strata Business Services, gave presentation. They are looking for vacant land sites on South East Side and West Side of State for a 1500 Class C Provision and Processing Center. Barr stated center would provide 50-70 jobs when fully operational. They would like to have site selection complete in next 3-4 months.

Barr updated group on House Bill 4209 along with Licensing & Regulatory Affairs (LARA) Board.

Group had a lot of discussion on “Why Newaygo.”

Barr discussed Revenue generation that would occur: annual licensing fees, sale of property, local property tax increases, utility hook-ups, state income and employment, excise tax and he stated that sales tax is still being determined.

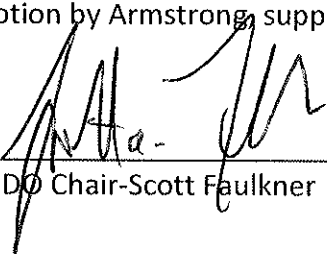
Board and Guests asked many questions that were answered by Barr and Boehm.

Board Member Comments:

Looman stated City-Wide Clean Up on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

Aaron Leestma, Administrator Community Home Healthcare, shared that PACE Program tentatively scheduled to open on June 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated they are not allowed to market program until officially open and will begin marketing at time Program is opened.

Motion by Armstrong, supported by Hirdes to adjourn meeting at 2:07 pm. AIF/MC

  
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NEDO Chair-Scott Faulkner

  
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Recording Secretary-Kim Goodin