

Newaygo Economic Development Organization
Minutes 7/14/17

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 (left at 12:40 pm)

NEDO Board Members Absent:

George Suchy

Introductions:

NEDO Board and Guests introduced themselves.

Meeting Minutes April & May:

Motion by Heartwell, supported by Lethorn to approve meeting minutes from April 21, 2017 Meeting and May 22, 2017 Meeting. AIF/MC

Meeting Dates:

Faulkner discussed proposed change of date for future NEDO Meetings. He recommends NEDO Meetings occur one to two weeks prior to TIFA Meetings. Fedell recommended NEDO Board hold business meeting first and NEDO Networking Meeting afterwards.

Motion by Johnson, supported by Heartwell to have future NEDO Board Meetings at 10:30 am and NEDO Networking Meeting at 11:30 am according to proposed schedule. AIF/MC

Bold Idea-Walkable City Follow-up:

Faulkner updated group on Jeff Specks potential engagement with The City of Newaygo. He stated that funding was approved at TIFA Meeting this morning and will be presented at next City Council Meeting. He discussed Harry Wierenga, from Fleis & VandenBrink, previous and future engagement with City of Newaygo. Plan would be for Speck, Wierenga and all City Boards to work collaboratively.

Faulkner discussed Integrated Manufacturing Concept. He stated biggest challenge in Newaygo area is housing and will focus on this need. Faulkner discussed lack of child care in City of Newaygo and said one of the long-term goals is to have additional child care available in the City limits.

Faulkner presented data on the future of Automated Vehicle Technology. Group discussed original plan related to need for additional parking downtown Newaygo. They discussed

options related to walkability and the need to look at all options of what makes the most sense for future before any final decisions are made in regards to parking.

Hot Topic of the Day for Discussion:

Faulkner asked “what is the City looking for in regards to Walkability and Master Plan?” Johnson feels looking for insight with high levels of elements that the Master Plan will cover. Group discussed importance of Planned Unit Developments (PUD’s) in regards to Master Plan. Schneider stated that he feels Newaygo Community is way ahead on many things and need to determine what principles are essential for a super great community. Group discussed benefits and challenges in regards to a walkable community.

Armstrong stated that George Suchy has joined the NEDO Board which NEDO now has representation from Garfield and Brooks Township. Group discussed the importance of consideration of neighboring communities during Master Plan Process.

Faulkner asked board members for information regarding stakeholders and future public meetings. Group discussed: public meetings, possible committee for master planning, having conversations with people, who should be included, bringing all boards’ up-to-date, visual drawings and importance of process.

Project Updates:

- A. Stream Operations-Goodin updated group on Stream Operations and Digital Works.
- B. City-wide Wi-Fi (iServe)-Group discussed City-wide Wi-Fi. Group felt this discussion should be included during public forums for Master Planning.
- C. Facade Grant-Mark Guzniczak, Business Development Coordinator, Newaygo County, updated group on Facade Grant for Muskegon River Inn and North Wood General Store. He stated process has been slow and he has a meeting scheduled with MEDC on Friday, July 21st.
- D. Muskegon River Development-Chris Ortwein, partner with Muskegon River Holding Company, stated due diligence currently in progress. He stated there will be a Phase 1 and Phase 2 of this project.
- E. The Right Place-Guzniczak provided job growth data to group. He discussed education opportunities available for any board members, government officials and township officials. Guzniczak updated group on Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) process. City of Newaygo is currently working on 2nd phase of RRC engagement.
- F. Subway (Franchise)-Faulkner stated that Subway wants to expand to include a drive-thru window, but wants a second business to share new building. Originally Bigby was going to share building, but has decided not to locate in Newaygo. Group discussed possible options. Colleen Lynema, Executive Director River Country Chamber, to search for Dunkin Donut contact and get to Armstrong.
- G. Strata Business Services-Faulkner updated group on previous meeting discussions. Guzniczak discussed term sheet that was being worked on. He stated building would be approximately 25,000 sq feet including greenhouse, 3.8 million dollars invested in building, approximately 3.5 million dollars in salaries and benefits the first year and

approximately 70 million dollars in annual revenue the first year. He will get all information to NEDO and City so information can be shared. Armstrong stated that current City Ordinances are main obstacle. Group discussed ordinance rules, guidelines and next steps.

Motion by Looman, supported by Nelson to recommend to Planning Committee and City Council that City of Newaygo adopt Zoning Ordinance allowing for Medical Marijuana Processing Facility to be constructed within Newaygo City Limits. Roll Call: Yea: Armstong, Faulkner, Fedell, Heartwell, Hirdes, Nelson, Johnson, Looman. Abstained: Bumstead. Absent: Suchy and Lethorn. Nay: None. MOTION CARRIED.

Comments:

Nick Looman, Principal Shopping District (PSD) Board Member, questioned role of PSD and looking for suggestions from NEDO Board. Schneider gave history of PSD and why it was established. Group discussed PSD conversation could be part of Master Plan Process.

Motion by Fedell, supported by Johnson to adjourn meeting at 1:30 pm. AIF/MC



NEDO Chair-Scott Faulkner



Recording Secretary-Kim Goodin