

Newaygo Economic Development Organization
Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 6, 2017

Scott Faulkner called the Newaygo Economic Development Organization (NEDO) Meeting to order at 10:37 am at The Stream located at 1 State Rd., Newaygo MI 94337. Colleen Buckley acted as recording secretary in the absence of Kim Goodin.

NEDO Board Members Present:

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

NEDO Board Members Absent:

None

Others Present: Jon Schneider, Mark Guzniczak, Chris Ortwein, Jason Harris

Meeting Minutes of July:

Motion by Nelson, supported by Hirdes to approve meeting minutes from July 14, 2017 Meeting.
AIF/MC

Board Positions Expiring 12/31/18:

Board terms of Fedell, Johnson, and Hirdes are expiring at year end. Johnson and Hirdes are interested in continuing. Faulkner will speak with Fedell about his term.

Next NEDO Board Meeting:

The next NEDO Board Meeting will be held on Friday, January 5, 2018 at 10:30 am at The Stream.

MEDC: Redevelopment Ready Community Criteria:

A. Master Plan Strategy – Public Engagement Plan:

Schneider reported that on 10-10-17, the concept of updating the Newaygo Master Plan as part of the State of MI requirements will be presented to the planning commission. MEDC will provide some grant funding to work with LSL Planning of Grand Rapids to unify the local branding, walkability and other ideas.

Fedell clarified that there is a specific process in place to update the City's Master Plan and said that nothing may be amended until all stakeholders and other entities are publically informed. Schneider assured that the process will be followed and that letters will be mailed on Wednesday, 10-11-17 following the planning commission meeting on 10-10-17.

B. Economic Development Strategy:

Faulkner thanked Johnson and K. Looman for their part in introducing the public participation strategy

for “I am NEWaygo.” They are promoting a social media campaign to engage the public and solicit positive feedback.

Faulkner and Guzniczak are taking the lead on Economic Development. Schneider added that on-line guides and a resource library are available for examples in other communities.

Industrial Park Site Plan/Feasibility Investment:

Faulkner referred to handout map and explained that the need for child care is critical in a walkability plan. The map featured a 1.5 acre plot that may be ideal for a round-the-clock day care center that can hold 70 children at once. This potential facility will be available to any city employers to make available to their employees.

A feasibility survey must be completed before action can be taken to determine if an appropriate facility can be constructed on this property that will meet all needs of a day care center. The cost of such a study will be \$3,000. Fedell questioned this expense and a discussion followed. The group felt that such a study should include a site map, room schematic, parking, etc. and would make sure that final facility met with all state guidelines and requirements, and would have value. The estimated cost to build is \$1.2 - \$1.5 million for a 5,000 sq. ft. day care.

Motion by Heartwell, supported by Nelson, to recommend to City that it covers one-half (\$1,500) of the feasibility study, with the contingency that the City has access to the plans in the future. AIF/MC

Comments:

Johnson introduced videographer, Jason Harris, who was on-site taping for the “I Am NEWaygo,” program and invited board members to participate as time allowed.

Heartwell said he is hopeful to have an in-depth conversation about community participation at the January meeting.

Faulkner drew attention to the Project Update sheets available to board members.

Ortwein introduced the Core Community concept, and said that if Newaygo could obtain this designation that more MEDC grants and other economic development opportunities would be open to the City.

Motion by Scott Faulkner, supported by Krista Looman, to adjourn meeting at 11:14 am AIF/MC