



MINUTES

Newaygo Economic Development Organization Meeting

January 17, 2020

Call To Order:

Mayor Fedell called the Newaygo Economic Development Organization (NEDO) Meeting to order at 10:32 am at The Stream located at 1 State Rd., Newaygo MI 49337. Kim Goodin acted as recording secretary.

Roll Call: Present: Ron Armstrong, Matthew Boynton, Ed Fedell, Jason Harris, Del Hirdes, Krista Looman, Cory Nelson, Steven Radtke,
Absent: George Heartwell, Morgan Heinzman, George Suchy

Others Present: Scott Faulkner, Jon Schneider, Colleen Lynema, Stephen Carlson, John Buckley Jr., Julie Burrell, Scott Swinehart, Nick Looman, Chief Andres, Lee Black, Erin Burns, Kim Goodin

Motion by Hirdes, second by Looman to approve the 10/11/19 NEDO Meeting Minutes. AIF/MC

Motion by Fedell, second by Nelson to appoint Hirdes as NEDO Chair and Armstrong as NEDO Vice-Chair. AIF/MC

Mayor Fedell turned meeting over to Chair Hirdes.

The Stream Update:

- A. Faulkner stated that Sandmold is selling their building and that he is working with them to relocate their employees to The Stream. He said they are currently working out IT details. Faulkner stated that a couple of the meeting rooms may be reconfigured should Sandmold relocate to The Stream. He said that two developers will be touring Sandmold building and parcel in coming weeks.

Economic & Community Development:

- A. Faulkner discussed the restoration of four downtown Newaygo properties that are in process and gave an update on the status of the pedestrian suspension bridge project and grant opportunity with MEDC. He discussed grant that was received for City Tree Initiative and said that they need to work through installation and maintenance of trees. Faulkner said that Christian Healthcare Centers is still interested in coming to Newaygo, but does not want to own the building, but would like a long term lease. He stated that the City will be working with The Right Place to host an event for Christian Healthcare Centers Project as they may be able to attract more developers to Newaygo for this project.
- B. Schneider discussed City Project list that was included in packets and stated that TIFA will be discussing in greater detail in March. Schneider, board and public discussed the powerhouse building (old museum) relating to usage and timing of a potential project.

MEDC Redevelopment Ready Community (RRC) Process Update:

- A. Faulkner discussed "draft" Marketing and Branding Strategy that was included in packets and stated that this is a requirement for the Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Program. He said that this had previously been presented at Council, Planning and TIFA. Faulkner, board and public discussed Marketing and Branding Strategy and felt it covered City of Newaygo and makes sense geographically.

Motion by Harris, second by Boynton to recommend approval of the Marketing and Branding Strategy as presented with Branding of "Newaygo-The Heart of Muskegon River" to City Council. AIF/MC

Walkability Plans:

- A. Harris and K. Looman distributed map of snowmobile path and potential bike path. They discussed starting with current bike path, population to support bike routes, budget to establish bike paths/routes and accessibility challenges of area on Adams/State St. All discussed opportunities, ideas, and possible solutions relating to bike paths/routes.

Motion by K. Looman, second by Harris to recommend to the Planning Commission the adoption of snowmobile path in City of Newaygo as bike path putting down sharrows and markings. AIF/MC

- B. Schneider gave an update on the M-37 Pilot Program scheduled for 2020, stated that engineering was near completion, and necessary MDOT permits would be submitted shortly. He said that the first pilot study will begin in April and go through Memorial Day and the second pilot study will begin shortly after Memorial Day through 4th of July. Schneider stated that MDOT will be working on Penoyer Bridge this year.

Housing and Property Update:

- A. Faulkner stated that a few business owners in downtown Newaygo are interested in apartments above their businesses.
- B. Faulkner said that a developer is interested in parcels by Pine Lake Apartments.
- C. Board and public discussed lack of retail downtown and uptown and opportunities to attract additional retail.

Right Place Update:

Burrell gave an update on projects in the County and discussed numerous upcoming events being held throughout the county.

Board and Public Comments:

Carlson discussed Grant Program available for Biking and Walkability Program and stated that WMSRDC has staff that may be able to assist.

Motion by Armstrong, second by Radtke to adjourn meeting at 12:53 pm. AIF/MC

Kim Goodin, Recording Secretary