

MEETING MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 8:00 AM
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
31555 W. ELEVEN MILE ROAD
FARMINGTON HILLS MI 48336

CALLED TO ORDER BY: CHAIRMAN ANHUT AT 8:03 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: ANHUT, BEIERMEISTER, CANTOR, ELLIOTT, HARTSOCK, LINDSEY-FEAGIN, ZACHOS

MEMBERS ABSENT: SLAUGHTER

OTHERS PRESENT: Samantha Seimer, Economic Development Director; Gary Mekjian, Assistant City Manager; Diane Holcomb, Assistant to John Anhut; Robert Herrera, Farmington Public Schools Superintendent; Diane Bauman, Farmington Public Schools Director of School and Community Relations; Michael Sarafa; T. R. Carr;

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairman Anhut requested that Agenda Item 6. New Business be moved to follow Agenda Item Number 8. Board Member Comments.

Motion by Elliott, support by Hartsock, to approve the agenda as amended.
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 19, 2019:

Motion by Cantor support by Elliott to approve the minutes as submitted.
Motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Chairman Anhut reported that he met with Mercedes Benz Financial Services who is building a new location at 12 Mile and Drake. He plans to attend a Planning Meeting to support their variance request for height. Mr. Beiermeister expressed concerns about traffic along 12 Mile and how increasing the height of buildings might impact that area. Ms. Seimer noted that the height variance being sought by the applicant is not to add an additional story to the building, but to increase the height in each story for a more modern office look. She added that this has been a common request of new office buildings in the area.
- Chairman Anhut stated that he and Mr. Elliott have been working on a small business retention award together and came up with a list of eleven businesses eligible. They plan to present the award at an upcoming EDC Meeting.
- Chairman Anhut thanked the Mayor and City Council for reappointing him to the EDC for another six years.
- It was announced that a groundbreaking ceremony for Harrison High School, now going to be called The Hawk, on Monday, September 23 at 6:00 PM
- Ms. Martin has resigned from the Chamber and there was no replacement of the Executive Director position as of the time of the EDC Meeting.
- Chairman Anhut introduced Dr. Herrera, the Superintendent of Farmington Public Schools to the EDC:
 - Dr. Herrera informed the Board that his goal is to undertake a strategic plan update which will include community stakeholder involvement.
 - Mr. Beiermeister asked Dr. Herrera what he believed was the largest challenge. Dr. Herrera stated that the largest challenge he is facing is the overall budget due to lower enrollment and corresponding lower per pupil funding for the district. Dr. Herrera spoke about how was a transformation specialist with Adrian schools and helped turn around districts.
 - Mr. Hartsock spoke about Xemplar Club and its mentoring program, he noted to use the boards and commissions including the EDC as a resource for the schools and the community.

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- Dr. Herrera spoke about career and technical education program and 13th year which allows students to have an associate's degree by the time they leave high school. He explained the challenges of getting information from students to parents and stated that the school is working to improve the lines of communication from teachers to home.
- Dr. Herrera spoke about the need to get kids to work with experts in the field and work on more passion projects.
- Ms. Lindsey-Feagin added that Bosch supports the schools through the Bosch Community Fund, Ms. Bauman also thanked Bosch for their support throughout the years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Ms. Seimer updated to board about upcoming big picture projects including the Harrison High School Incubator Space, Connected Farmington Hills and a Strategic Plan. The slide deck presented at the meeting is attached with the meeting minutes.
- Mr. Beiermesiter added that the Connected Farmington Hills Survey is intended for mid-to small size businesses.
- It was recommended that Ms. Seimer send the survey to the Board for feedback.

BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Anhut requested that the Election of Officers for the EDC be postponed until the October meeting. He announced that he will be resigning as Chairman but will continue to serve on the EDC. Chairman Anhut acknowledged that he has been on the EDC Since its formation began in 1978 and has served as chairman for the last twenty-three years.

The Board and meeting attendees gave Chairman Anhut a standing ovation.

Chairman Anhut requested that Mr. Hartsock Chair the October meeting and run the Election of Officers. The Board offered its consensus to Chairman Anhut's request.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Chairman Anhut announced that the next meeting of the EDC will be October 16, 2019 at 8:00 AM.

Chairman Anhut adjourned the meeting at 9:17 AM

Minutes drafted by: Samantha Seimer