

## MINUTES

MEETING: GO Topeka Board of Directors

PLACE: Chamber Board Room

TIME: 7:30 a.m.

DATE: March 4, 2005

Present: Carl Koupal, Andy Jetter, Rick Jackson, Linda Ramirez Gonzalez, Mark Wittenburg, John Moenius, Mike Wilson, Dan Woodard, Connie Goodnow, Kris Kitchen, Matt Sabatini, Ken Schmanke, Mike Engler, Duane Fager, Neil Fisher, Alonzo Harrison, Steve Johnson, Bob Schuster, Kathleen Urbom, Dr. Jerry Farley, Commissioner Vic Miller, Council Member Lisa Stubbs, Kris Robbins, Brad Owen

Guests: Richard Hoffman, KATS; Rev. T. D. Hicks, Antioch Baptist Church

Carl Koupal called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Andy Jetter moved, Connie Goodnow seconding, that the minutes of the February 4, 2005, meeting be approved. The motion carried.

Brad Owen discussed January financials. Owen indicated the audit of both the Chamber and GO Topeka is under way and will be presented when completed. Linda Rameriz Gonzalez moved, Connie Goodnow seconding, that the financials be approved. The motion carried.

Doug Kinsinger updated the board on legislative to retain Innovia in the community. Staff is monitoring efforts in England to keep their plant open. If the legislature approves the incentive package, and all offers are accepted by Innovia, Topeka should retain the plant.

Doug Kinsinger discussed the legislation for the use of Star Bonds to assist Heartland Park Topeka with infrastructure improvements.

Dr. Jerry Farley discussed out-district tuition, the possible phase-out and how it affects Washburn and other schools.

Doug Kinsinger reported on requests for federal funding. Staff hopes to secure additional funding for the Topeka Boulevard Bridge, Heartland Park Topeka and projects at the 190<sup>th</sup> as well as others. Mayor McClinton, Commissioner Ensley, Kris Robbins, David Kerr and Doug Kinsinger will be traveling to Washington, DC on March 14 and 15, 2005 to meet with Congressional staff, and also to discuss BRAC issues.

Doug Kinsinger discussed a letter from Phil Elwood to Chandler Moenius regarding a balance of \$17,500 that was left over from the Association for Action. Discussions were held regarding moving the money from the Community Foundation to the Chamber Foundation but holding it until there is a need for it.

Doug Kinsinger discussed a proposal from Andy Jetter regarding an economic development grant that FHLBank operates. The program has \$25,000 grant opportunities made through local member institutions. Staff will pursue the issue.

Doug Kinsinger advised that application will be made for two grants for DBE programs. He discussed a venture training program with KATS and Antioch Baptist Church that would benefit the community by offering a GED Certificate Program and further continuing education. Because of space available in the building it would be possible to remodel old classrooms for use. Discussion was held on partnering with the Antioch Family Life Center in their efforts to promote GED certification and more advanced programs through a classroom presence by Kaw Area Technology School. Dr. Farley moved, Kathleen Urbom seconding, that the board support the concept of assisting the Antioch Life Center in remodeling classroom space enabling KATS to provide entry-level post-secondary education curriculum; and that GO Topeka request that the \$17,500 funds from the Community Foundation be transferred to the Chamber Foundation for future use. The motion carried.