

MINUTES

MEETING: **GO Topeka Board of Directors**

PLACE: Chamber Board Room

TIME: 7:30 a.m.

DATE: May 6, 2005

Present: Andy Jetter, Rick Jackson, Linda Ramirez Gonzalez, Mark Wittenburg, John Moenius, Lucky DeFries, Jim Haines, Terry Neher, Dan Woodard, Connie Goodnow, Kris Kitchen, Matt Sabatini, Ben Blair, Mike Engler, Alonzo Harrison, Steve Johnson, Bob Schuster, Kathleen Urbom, Dr. Jerry Farley, Council Member John Nave, Kris Robbins, Vince Frye, John Myers

Guests: Karen Keehne, Brad Owen, Curtis Pitts, Ed Hughes, Elizabeth Barranco, Michelle Cuevas-Stubblefield, Elias Garcia, Ediberto Gonzalez

Andy Jetter called the meeting to order. Mark Wittenburg moved, Terry Neher seconding, that the minutes of the April 1, 2005 meeting be approved. The motion carried.

Brad Owen presented financials, indicating that sales tax receipts had been received in March. Expenses are in line with the budget. Owen further discussed the schedule of actual and pending commitments for incentives. John Moenius moved, Dan Woodard seconding, that the financial statements be approved. The motion carried.

Rick Jackson presented the reworded Ethical Practices for board members. Language in the third bullet was changed regarding conflicts of interest. Any possible conflicts should be submitted to the executive committee. Mark Wittenburg moved, Kris Robbins seconding, that the reworded Ethical Practices statement be approved. The motion carried.

Doug Kinsinger advised that Berberich Trahan had been auditing GO Topeka books for the last three years. Karen Keehne, Berberich Trahan presented a summary of the audit, reviewed the financials, and have assumed an unqualified opinion that the audit is correct. Some minor adjustments were suggested in accounting procedures. Keehne also discussed authorized credit card expenses and their accounting procedures; as well as in-kind services provided and the tracking of such. Kathleen Urbom moved, Steve Johnson seconding, that the audit report be approved, and that the proposed language on the policy for bankcards be approved. The motion carried.

Christy Caldwell discussed the upcoming inter-city visit to Columbus, Ohio on September 22nd and 23rd. Because the SCCA races will be coming to Topeka in 2006, this trip is a good way to incorporate visiting Columbus and also visiting the races. Caldwell has contacted the Columbus Chamber to discuss topics for the visit, and also look into the possibility of securing a charter flight for the group.

Steve Johnson discussed the Mid-Ohio race track and the money it generates into the local economy and how that would translate to Topeka.

Kathy Moellenberndt advised that staff had been approached by Mike Hall, Lohmann & Rauscher regarding the possible expansion of their US base of operations. Staff worked with KDOC to assemble an incentive package. The executive committee authorized a \$55,000 incentives for 17 jobs retained with a growth of 10 jobs within 2/3 years. Linda Ramirez Gonzalez moved, Dan Woodard seconding, that the \$55,000 incentives be approved with the requirement that jobs be maintained for a five year period. The motion carried.

Doug Kinsinger discussed the status of a grant from the federal government in 2004 which was used for Wenger Road at the commerce park. Kinsinger also mentioned recent approval of an additional \$700,000 in federal funds. Staff has been meeting with city Public Works on the best way to use this grant. Kinsinger discussed the possibility of utilizing funds to improve 49th Street west off Topeka Boulevard. An estimate of \$935,000 plus 25% additional for design costs has been provided by Public Works to redo 49th Street at Topeka Boulevard. The board provided conceptual approval of the possibility of using the grant for this purpose.

Vince Frye presented a new marketing piece on Topeka lifestyle, "100 Reasons to Live in Topeka." Staff and Frye worked with the Topeka Area Realtors and the Topeka Home Builders on this piece. The piece will be handed out at the upcoming Parade of Homes. There will soon be a webpage to expand on these 100 reasons. There is a lot of marketing going on outside Topeka, including billboards. There will also be a new billboard on the Commerce Park.

Doug Kinsinger advised three grant requests have been presented to GO Topeka for consideration.

Curtis Pitts discussed the Kansas Black Expo and presented a budget and a tentative schedule of events. Pitts indicated this is the largest event in the state for the minority community. Pitts requested \$25,000 for the business and jobs expo. He further discussed the amount of capital currently committed by other businesses.

Brian Turner introduced Michelle Cuevas Stubblefield and Elizabeth Barranco of Mana de Topeka. Stubblefield and Barranco presented information on an upcoming forum and advocacy program targeted to the Latino community. They discussed accountability and partnerships with other businesses within the community. The event is September 15, 2005 at the Ramada Inn. Stubblefield and Barranco requested \$10,000 as a title sponsorship.

Elias Garcia and Ediberto Gonzales presented a request for \$10,000 for a Hispanic/Latino Affairs Conference to be held on September 16, 2005 at the Ramada Inn. The intent is to educate and train businesses on how to access the Latino market, and to look at the growing Latino community in the area.

After considerable discussion, Steve Johnson moved, Kris Robbins seconded that the board approve \$25,000 for the Kansas Black Expo with the proviso that reporting be provided on outcomes as well as appropriate accounting records. The motion carried.

Kathleen Urbom moved, Neil Fisher seconding that the board approve \$10,000 for Mana de Topeka. The motion carried. Kris Robbins voted "no."

No motion was forthcoming on the proposal for Justica. Staff was instructed to encourage Mana and Justica to work together. The issue was tabled.

The group agreed that there needs to be oversight and accountability from all groups.

Jo Beilman discussed the upcoming business visitation program which will kick off on Tuesday, May 24th at 7:30 a.m. She urged all board members to participate.

Jo Beilman reminded board members of the Small Business Awards on May 25th at 7:30 a.m. at Washburn University. This years' winners are Kansas Building Systems, Mize Houser and Reliable Car Shop.

Kathy Moellenberndt presented a copy of the 1st quarter JEDO report to the board for their reading.

Doug Kinsinger advised that Jack Porteous is leaving the staff to take a position with Morris Communications working on Workforce Development. Kinsinger advised that Tony and Jack's positions will be advertised soon.

The meeting adjourned.