

## MINUTES

### JEDO Board of Directors

October 27, 2005

3:30 p.m.

### Chamber of Commerce Board Room

The JEDO Board met in the Chamber of Commerce Board Room with the following JEDO voting members present: City of Topeka; Mayor Bill Bunten, Deputy Mayor John Alcalá, Council Member John Nave, Council Member Bill Haynes; Shawnee County Commissioners: Commissioner Vic Miller, Commissioner Marice Kane. Commissioner Ted Ensley was absent.

Also present: Sylvia Ortiz, City of Topeka; Lana Kennedy, City of Topeka; Brett Blackburn, City of Topeka; Andy Jetter, FHLBank Topeka; Jeff Wiethorn, Coffman DeFries & Nothern; Curtis Pitts, DBE, Mary Holmes, Account Collect Financial; Clark Trammell, Business Owner, Neil Dobler, City of Topeka; Norman Quarles, P & G Enterprises, Inc; Milton P. Jackson, Jr., Topeka African American Pastor's Coalition; Tim Green, City of Topeka; Mark Wittenburg, Batis Development; Allen Martin, Topeka HRC; Roberta Adams, All Washed Up; Dawn Kirton, La Carib Catering; David Kerr, SBC; Rick Wienckowski, Hill's Pet Nutrition; Richard Forester, Topeka CVB; Ed Carmona, ILC of Topeka/Lawrence; Alonzo Harrison, HDB Construction; Rick Jackson, Capitol Federal; Brenden Long, City of Topeka; Mike Welch, BRB Contractors; Doug Kinsinger, Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce; Jo Beilman, GO Topeka; Kathy Moellenberndt, Chamber/GO Topeka; Brian Turner, DBE, Monique Johnson, DBE; Alma Valencia, DBE, Thomas Officer, DBE, Doris Williams, DBE; Glenda Overstreet; Christy Caldwell, Chamber of Commerce; Nora Patton Taylor, Chamber/GO Topeka.

1. **Mayor Bunten called the meeting to order.** Commissioner Miller moved, Commissioner Kane seconding, that the minutes of the June 20, 2005 meeting be approved. The motion carried.
  
2. **Discussion on consideration of utilizing infrastructure sales tax for following projects:**
  - a. **Water line relocation in conjunction with the Topeka Boulevard Bridge construction.**

Tim Green, City of Topeka, discussed the need to relocate certain utilities with the construction of the Topeka Boulevard bridge. The existing water line on the bridge dates from 1938 and is in fair condition. To meet future needs, utility line relocation should accompany the new bridge construction. The anticipated cost is \$330,000. Commissioner Miller moved, Council Member Alcalá seconding, that the \$330,000 be funded by the sales tax dollars. The motion carried. Commissioner Miller indicated that in his view action by the JEDO board to approve this expenditure was unnecessary.

**b. Road construction along Wanamaker Road as opposed to city bond financing.**

City Council Member Brett Blackburn discussed the use of sales tax dollars to fund additional improvements to Wanamaker, extending the construction another 1800 ft. Tim Green reviewed proposed improvements to Wanamaker. Green and Dobler indicated this portion of the project includes federal funds. Council Member Alcalá moved, Council Member Nave seconding, that the amount of \$90,000 be approved for the additional 1800 ft. of Wanamaker. After further discussion and input, and in order to obtain further clarification about the project, Council Member Alcalá withdrew his motion, and Council Member Nave withdrew his second. They requested Topeka Public Works provide the requested information to JEDO board members prior to the next JEDO meeting.

**3. Discussion of future funding of military retention/expansion effort as part of a state-wide effort.**

Doug Kinsinger reported that the state is requesting the Chamber participate in future funding efforts to keep the military in the state and to grow future missions for state military contingents. He explained the funding used to retain the lobbying firms in Washington, DC who worked on the BRAC process. Adjutant General Tod Bunting has been working on additional missions with our consultants. Money collected from communities around the state would be leveraged with the state on a 50/50 basis. This collaboration has been very beneficial for the state in the past with their efforts on the BRAC process. Kinsinger requested that the board consider investing \$50,000. Commissioner Miller moved, Council Member Haynes seconding that Mr. Kinsinger indicate to Lt. Governor Moore that GO Topeka is interested in participating in a collaboration but withhold funding until further information is received. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. Update on GO Topeka's performance measurements.**

Christy Caldwell discussed federal funding requests for FY 2006 including the Topeka Boulevard Bridge (\$5.6 million), Monroe Street beautification (not yet finalized), Heartland Park Topeka Renovation (not yet finalized), the Kansas River Project (not yet finalized), Constitution Hall, and the 190<sup>th</sup> Squadron Flight Operations Building. Requests for funding for Constitution Hall and the 190<sup>th</sup> were not funded. Federal funding received from FY 2003 to FY 2005 is \$22,100,000. Kinsinger reviewed the status of federal funds of \$700,000 for commerce park infrastructure which allowed for the extension of Wenger Drive.

Kathy Moellenberndt advised that as part of their renovation to corporate offices and the research and development center, Hill's had invested approximately \$30 million. Blue Cross invested \$21 million to consolidate offices to their location at Huntoon & Topeka Boulevard. Mainline Printing totally revamped the façade of their building, retained 100 jobs and will create 20 to 25 new jobs. BNSF brought jobs from Burlingame, IA and is investing about \$8 million to update facilities at the shops.

She thanked all entities involved in the work to retain the Innovia Cellophane Plant in Tecumseh. A large sign has been placed on their property stating "Your Sales Tax Dollars at Work.". Similar signs are placed at other company sites where sales tax dollars have been used to assist in their expansion

Reser's Fine Foods purchased the old Farmland Foods property and is constructing a 190,000 sq. ft. facility at a cost of approximately \$22 million with 100 new jobs.

Coca Cola recently held a ground breaking for their new warehouse/distribution facility at Forbes Field. Coca Cola will retain 50 jobs and create 20 new jobs.

Moellenberndt presented a summary of GO Topeka activities from January through September for the board's information.

Through the Business Retention Program a total of 150 companies have been visited from January through September 2005 and from 2004 to 2005 total calls on existing companies total 350.

Brian Turner advised that four companies received microloans in 2005 for a total of \$99,000. From October 2002 to September 2005 twenty-eight loans have been made for a total of \$640,500.

Turner indicated that the current First Step FastTrac class has 23 participants that will graduate in November. To date over 170 have graduated from the program. The Retail Incubator at 29<sup>th</sup> & Cunningham is open with 4 tenants and the Professional Incubator has 3 tenants. There are 25 business mentors working one-on-one with businesses from the program. Staff continues to hold orientation sessions, send out press releases and network in the community. Council Member Ortiz suggested that NIA Presidents and churches are vital supporters of the program and could assist in getting out the word. Council Member Alcalá suggested that when the lease for the incubators is up that a different location be considered.

Doug Kinsinger reported on the creation of a Science and Technology Committee to look at the community's possible niche in bio sciences. The Bio Science Act affects plants, animals and humans. He further discussed Angel Equipment Investment network.

Marsha Sheahan presented mock-ups of new billboard advertising for I-70. She presented copies of the ads in the Topeka Capital Journal, the slides shown at the movie theaters on local companies who have received assistance from the sales tax, and indicated staff is receiving testimonials from people on 100 Reasons to Live in Topeka.

**5, Discussions and recommendations for 2006 economic development priorities.**

Commissioner Miller moved, Deputy Mayor Alcalá seconding, that the issue be deferred until the next JEDO meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **Discussions on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program.**

Doris Williams discussed her perceptions of problems with the DBE Advisory Council and staff in communication, formation of programs, mentors, and coaches. She requested that the DBE Council be taken out from under GO Topeka.

The board discussed the issues presented. They agreed there are dedicated people who are working to assist the minority community. Deputy Mayor Alcala moved, Council Member Nave seconding, that the DEB Advisory Council meet to find resolution and come back to the JEDO board in 30 days with a report. The motion carried. The JEDO board requested staff provide a listing of the DBE Advisory Council members to them.

The meeting adjourned.