

MINUTES

MEETING: GO Topeka Board of Directors

PLACE: Chamber Board Room

TIME: 7:30 a.m.

DATE: April 7, 2006

Present: Carl Koupal, Andy Jetter, Rick Jackson, Linda Rameriz Gonzalez, Mark Wittenburg, John Moenius, Lucky DeFries, Jim Haines, Terry Neher, Connie Goodnow, Kris Kitchen, Matt Sabatini, Ken Schmanke, Mike Engler, Neil Fisher, Alonzo Harrison, Dr. Jerry Farley, Commissioner Vic Miller, City Manager Norton Bonaparte, Mayor Bill Buntten, David Kerr, John Myers, Brad Owen

Guest: Karen Keehn, Berberich Trahan

Carl Koupal welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced and welcomed City Manager Norton Bonaparte to the board. Koupal congratulated Doug Kinsinger on his recent award from IABC.

Brad Owen reported on financials for the period, the receipt of sales tax monies, and the real estate option money paid on 75 acres. Expenses are in line with the budget. Owen further explained the balance in treasury securities that are laddered to come due every quarter. David Kerr moved, Lucky DeFries seconding, that the financial statements be approved. The motion carried.

Christy Caldwell discussed pending legislation including the eminent domain issue. Caldwell will continue to monitor legislation when the Legislature returns for the veto session.

Doug Kinsinger discussed the proposal by the Barrett Sports Group and the feasibility of Topeka hosting a baseball franchise. The Phase I analysis has been completed and presented to a group of Topekans. Three potential sites have been identified by the City for the location of the baseball facility. It is likely that the development of the facility will require significant public investment in the approximate amount of 80-100% of the facility's cost. Kinsinger reported on the professional fees for Phase I through Phase III. Kinsinger reminded the board that GO Topeka committed \$4,000 out of private funds for the Phase I study.

Karen Keehn presented the draft audit of GO Topeka, as well as presented two letters prepared by Berberich Trahan. The board recommended that final action on the audit be deferred until the next meeting in order to give board members time to review the draft.

Doug Kinsinger explained that as a part of the ongoing business retention program that discussions have been underway for the past six months with Blue Cross and Blue Shield regarding their being a Medicare administrator. Kinsinger introduced Bill Pitsenberger, Senior Vice President, Blue Cross Blue Shield and Brad Streets, Director of Business Development, Blue Cross Blue Shield. Bill Pitsenberger advised that BCBS had been the Medicaid administrator for the area for many years with 370 employees in direct support of the program. Due to changes in the law, BCBS is bidding on a new larger federal Medicaid contract for a four state area. There will be aggressive competition for this contract. The bid is expected to be awarded in 2007 and implementation will be completed by September 2008. The contract will be for five years and will have to be rebid. Losing the current contract would impact approximately 370 people and winning the bid could potentially increase employment by 300. Pitsenberger requested chamber support and assistance in obtaining the contract.

Kathy Moellenberndt discussed the recent Reser's facility expansion. The new facility encompasses over 200,000 sq. ft. with a \$40 m investment. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for Friday, April 21st at 3 p.m. at Reser's. She encouraged board members to attend. DCI, our PR firm will be bringing in representatives of two food processing magazines to write follow-up stories.

Doug Kinsinger thanked Ken Schmanke for his work and involvement on the DBE board and GO Topeka board. Due to Ken's assistance we have a strong small business and entrepreneur and DBE committee. Ken has asked to be relieved as one of the tri-chairs. Kathleen Urbom has agreed to replace Ken as a tri-chair on the DBE Advisory Council. Connie Goodnow moved, Andy Jetter seconding, that Kathleen Urbom be appointed as a tri-chair of the committee. The motion carried. The board expressed their appreciation of Ken's efforts over the years.

Doug Kinsinger discussed the recent trip to Washington DC to talk to congressional staff about the six funding requests for the community. Commissioner Vic Miller advised he was impressed with the quality of the lobbyists and their relationship with congressional staff. Both Commissioner Miller and Mayor Bunten thought the trip was time well spent and anticipate that our requests will be considered and successful. Norton Bonaparte advised that the congressional staff was impressed with the materials they received for the meeting.

Doug Kinsinger discussed a meeting with SmartPort and that they had received a federal grant to work on increasing trade with Mexico and South America in the Kansas City region. The meeting will be April 13th.

The meeting adjourned.