

MINUTES

MEETING: GO Topeka Board of Directors
PLACE: Chamber Board Room
TIME: 7:30 a.m.
DATE: February 3, 2006

Present: Carl Koupal, Andy Jetter, Linda Rameriz Gonzalez, Mark Wittenburg, Lucky DeFries, Jim Haines, Maynard Oliverius, Dan Woodard, Connie Goodnow, Ken Schmanke, Mike Engler, Alonzo Harrison, Carlos Gomez, Commissioner Vic Miller, Mayor Bill Bunten, David Kerr

Carl Koupal called the meeting to order. He welcomed Carlos Gomez to the board and thanked him for his interest in serving.

Mark Wittenburg moved, Linda Rameriz Gonzalez seconded, that the minutes of the January 6, 2006 meeting be approved. The motion carried.

Doug Kinsinger presented financials for the period. He further discussed DBE actual expenditures and carry-over. Overall, expenses are below budget. Mike Engler moved, Mark Wittenburg seconding, that the financials be approved. The motion carried.

Mark Wittenburg moved, Andy Jetter seconding, that the budget be footnoted with an explanation of DBE expenses and carry-over to reflect the charge back. The motion carried.

Christy Caldwell presented a list of bills that staff is following in the Legislature. The Chamber is part of a state coalition working on a number of issues. She discussed the use of eminent domain for economic development in that it is intended to keep economic development moving forward. It was suggested that an educational piece be prepared for the membership to provide a better understanding of the issue to the community.

Kathy Moellenberndt advised that at the last meeting the group discussed the previous use of the firm of Wadley Donovan to evaluate the area in terms of locational advantages for office space, manufacturing/distribution, data centers and other areas to see what the community is best suited for. Moellenberndt requested input from board members on any other areas that staff should be targeting. Because the state is being very aggressive in the area of Bio Science, staff will be looking at that area also as there are approximately 160 companies in the state working in BioScience. A Science and Technology Committee was organized in 2005 and continues to meet.

Kathy Moellenberndt discussed several projects staff is currently working on, including Project Nell, a food processing company; Project Orbit, a distribution center; Project Terrapin, a plastic injection molding company; and Project Marty, a west coast research and diagnostic company.

Doug Kinsinger discussed a request from Acting City Manager Neil Dobler on a minor league baseball stadium. The city is doing an RFP for a feasibility study. The city requested \$4,000 to assist with the first phase of the study. The board discussed providing the money from private funds; however, the board wants to evaluate the data and numbers from the first phase before investing further. David Kerr moved, Mark Wittenburg seconding, that the Chamber provide \$4,000 for the first phase study from private dollars. The motion carried.

Doug Kinsinger advised that there are several new key leaders coming to the community: a new President of the SCCA, Matt Rubel at Payless ShoeSource, and a new city manager. Staff is suggesting hosting a reception to allow the membership/board to meet these people.

Doug Kinsinger discussed the business opportunities occurring at Fort Riley. A meeting is scheduled for March 16th at 8:30 a.m. at Fort Riley for interested persons/companies to meet with representatives of the affected communities and representatives of the military to network with other businesses to partner with in the projected construction boom.

Doug Kinsinger advised that as a part of the BioScience mission initiated by the state, Topeka has had discussions with a company that keeps records for companies that deal in data analysis and keep a data library of research for companies like Hill's. Staff is working to get the company to locate in Topeka. The company initially plans to have 8-12 employees and grow over three years to 65 employees with jobs that pay from \$50,000 to \$70,000 a year. Staff provided a tour of the incubator facility next door. The building management has agreed to provide free rent for one year and GO Topeka will provide free rent for one year. Maynard Oliverius moved, Andy Jetter seconding, that staff continue to negotiate an incentive contract with the company in the manner of one year free rent based on a finalized agreement with building management to provide one year free rent, and tied to 8-12 jobs created within the first year. The motion carried.

Doug Kinsinger indicated that some staffing changes have been made. Jo Beilman will be working on new business attraction with external businesses. Clark Trammel has been a consultant to improve policies and procedures in DBE and will be filling some of Jo's responsibilities in BRE.

Doug Kinsinger presented the flier on the Steven Little conference and urged all board members to attend if possible.

The meeting adjourned.