

Martin County Economic Development Authority
April 7, 2008, 5:00pm
Commissioner's Board Room

Called to order Sukalski at 5:09 p.m. Those present were, Kotewa, Grupe, Clark, Pierce, Schmidtke, and Boler. Others present were: Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, and Bryan Stading, Director RCEF.

Motion by Kotewa, seconded by Pierce to approve the agenda. Carried unanimously

Motion by Kotewa, seconded by Pierce to approve the minutes as presented for the March 3, 2008 minutes. Carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion ensued on the EDA Committee structure.

Clark stated that it would be good to establish committees and that they may even provide future board members for the EDA.

Grupe stated the need to keep committees at a manageable number and not have too many on a committee.

It was asked how often these committees would meet. Sukalski responded that once a month should be sufficient, unless there is a need to meet more often if working on a special project.

Pierce stated that the EDA would best serve to finance projects by gap financing. Grupe concurred that the EDA is not a bank. Boler stated that part of the EDA job is to help those businesses complete certain paperwork for financing and other needs.

By consensus, the Board determined the need to establish two committees- Marketing and Communications (prepare marketing information for the County and EDA), and Finance (assist in providing business financing assistance such as gap financing as well as referrals to other financing options).

Schmidtke suggested each Board member bring names for possible appointment to the Committees for the next regular meeting.

There was discussion on setting a strategic planning session for the EDA. By consensus, it was determined to hold the planning session on Monday, June 16, 2008 10:30am - 2:30p.m. and to include the County Board of Commissioners as a part of the planning session as well.

IGNITE

Discussion ensued on the possibility of sharing the IGNITE name and to use as an umbrella name as an organization for entrepreneur and small business facilitation. Sukalski stated the need to keep the name for the Martin County EDA. No action taken.

Review of KSUM/KFMC Spring Expo held in Fairmont. Schmidtke thought the EDA should do it again. Clark concurred stating that some were confused by what IGNITE is all about. It was stated that the location was not as good as it could have been and to try and get a better spot for next year. Otherwise, it was good exposure for the EDA and IGNITE.

Higgins reviewed letter from DEED stating that the grant funds received needed to be used for actual services to clients for entrepreneurial and small business facilitation. However, the EDA's required match could be used for promotion and advertising for the IGNITE program.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion ensued on need for support staff for the EDA. Schmidtke stated that with the additional work required by the EDA, the Coordinator's Office should not be expected to continue to do all the work. The office has other responsibilities and priorities that it needs to meet. It was suggested to contact the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for possible volunteers to assist with general administrative work for the EDA (i.e. agendas, minutes, record keeping, etc.) Higgins will contact RSVP and report back at the next meeting.

FINANCIAL

Motion by Grupe, seconded by Pierce to approve the payment of April bills. Carried unanimously.

With no further business to wit, motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Boler to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Lawrence Sukalski, MCEDA Chair

ATTEST: Chris Pierce, Secretary/Treasurer