



Economic Development Advisory Committee

Minutes of the June 12, 2013 meeting

10 a.m., Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce Board Room

**Committee members present:** Kyle Fleming, Brad Hodson, Jim Hoskins, Shane Kannarr, Richard Oler and Mark Werner

**Others present:** Blake Benson, Daron Hall and Henry Menghini

**Additions to the agenda:** None

**Consent calendar:** Benson asked for discussion regarding the minutes from the May 8, 2013 meeting. There was none.

**MOTION:** Benson opened asking for a motion to approve the April 10, 2013 meetings minutes as presented. Hodson so moved. Motion seconded by Hoskins. All carried, motion approved.

**Old Business:**

**Forgivable loans:** Benson related that the two projects to be considered for loan forgiveness, the Besse Hotel and Ron & Dora Ware, have not yet submitted the appropriate paperwork to indicate they have met thresholds required for loan forgiveness. Benson is awaiting verification from the Besse Hotel that their project has created at least one new job, while the forgivable criteria for the Ware project involved a certain level of investment and a five-year agreement with Volvo Rents. Benson will present these projects, along with Masonite, at the July EDAC meeting.

**New Business:**

**Project updates:**

Benson relayed that the Goodwill retail development was approved by the Pittsburg Planning & Zoning Commission on June 3. The store will be an attractive retail presence on North Broadway and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The development will likely include additional office/retail space, which is commonly requested by retail prospects. Benson said the Jimmy John's

project on South Broadway was also approved at the same meeting, although their timeline isn't as clear as that of the Goodwill project.

Benson updated the board on a light manufacturing project. The company is a Kansas-based manufacturer that takes discarded tires, shreds them and uses the material to make running tracks, tennis courts, trails, etc. The company has inquired about land in Pittsburg and the EDAC discussed the possibility of offering two to three acres in the northeast industrial park as an incentive.

The Cheer Pitt project is still being considered, although the EDAC indicated its preference for the project to be located somewhere other than the Research & Development Park. One possibility could be the city's land located just west of the YMCA. Benson will reach out to the Cheer Pitt to gauge their interest.

**Director's report:** Benson said he plans to make progress on the economic development initiatives included in the Imagine Pittsburg 2030 plan, including crafting a strategy to fully capitalize on the economic development opportunities within Pittsburg State University and the Pittsburg medical community. Those discussions will begin in the next month. Richard Oler asked if any money had been budgeted specifically to address each initiative. There has been none, so the EDAC discussed a wide variety of resources that could be utilized to achieve these objectives. One, in particular, came from City Manager Daron Hall, who indicated his desire to see the city invest in a hotel/retail study that would guide the city's development efforts in these areas. Hall and Benson will report back with proposals for the EDAC to consider

**For the good of the order:** Chairman Kannarr asked for discussion regarding a possible phase III of the downtown façade grant program. There has been significant interest from downtown business and property owners. Kannarr suggested Benson ask those who have inquired to submit a proposal stating the scope of work and whether the business could complete the work in one year. Benson will work with Downtown Activities Director Jeff Wilbert to complete this task.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blake Benson