



## **Executive Director's Report**

### Update: One Big Sky District – Steve

Steve then began his Executive Director's Report and spoke about the City Council vote that defeated the amendment to the agreement with Landmark Development. Steve is working with Landmark to close out their account since they have delivered on everything promised in the agreement. Steve clarified how the \$300,000 the Board committed for Phase II is being spent. The \$300,000 is pledged towards the *full* scope of work and not just the lobbying effort, as misunderstood by some constituents. BSED will now shift focus to working with our legislative delegation to pass the bill that would secure a private/public funding mechanism available State-wide. There will also need to be the consideration of how we keep our lobbyists engaged throughout this process. Melanie shared an informational flyer detailing what 406 Impact Districts are. Steve also informed the Committee that he had a long conversation with several City Council Members last Friday where they voiced their concerns. Cory gave his thoughts about the Legislative Luncheon yesterday and commended Melanie's work regarding the Impact District piece. Steve continued speaking about the prospective bill and discussion was held concerning the need to have a mechanism in place that attracts this kind of development. We are hopeful to have a hearing on the bill on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Steve discussed next steps should the bill pass. If that is the case, our next effort would be to shop for prospective developers. It was noted that Landmark still has a reimbursement agreement in place should the project move forward and they not participate in developing one of the designated catalyst projects. They would be owed a reimbursement from the City in that scenario. There was also discussion about community misinformation and how, going forward, they could be better educated.

### Update: Economic Development Legislative Work (MEDA Priorities) – HB52

Steve spoke about House Bill 52 which would lift the sunset on the existing suite of economic development tools. That sunset is due this year if the bill does not pass. A contingent from BSED and SBDC client Jennifer Webber traveled to Helena in February to testify and offer their support for HB52.

## **Program/Organizational Directors Updates**

### Operations/ Future Facility – Becky

Becky gave a Future Facility Update. There were three proposals submitted on the March 4<sup>th</sup> deadline. The Future Facility Taskforce will reconvene this week to score the proposals and will then tour the facilities next week. She reminded the Committee that this is an accelerated process in order to help meet the Federal Grant Application deadline of April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### BillingsWorks: Youth Apprenticeship Grant Opportunity – Karen

Karen presented on a Youth Apprenticeship Grant Opportunity. Karen will be working with American Jobs for America's Youth (AJAY) on this effort. This grant will benefit high school students pursuing healthcare and IT apprenticeships. Due to the grant deadline ending before the next Board Meeting, Karen asked Executive Committee to approve sending out the grant request via Electronic Vote to the full Board.

Motion: Mike Seppala to approve and forward to the full Board, the request to apply for the grant as presented to the Executive Committee.

Second: Ken Lutton

Discussion: None

Motion: Carried

### VBOC Update: "Turn this Ship Around" Leadership Event – Dustin

Dustin gave a quick update on the upcoming VBOC Leadership Event. The event will have veteran, author, and motivational speaker, David Marquet presenting. The name of his book and this subsequent event is "Turn the

Ship Around". Dustin mentioned that the event is free to Veterans and their spouses and \$25 to all others. The event will be held at MSUB on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:30AM.

**Executive Session:** None

**Public Comment:** Steve reminded the Committee that the Board Meeting next Thursday will be at the Library.

**Adjourned:** Cory adjourned the meeting at 8:53 AM.