

Big Sky EDA/EDC Joint Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 6th, 2019 – 7:30 A.M. to 9:15 A.M.
Rosebud Room, 2nd Floor – Granite Tower

BIG SKY ED Mission Statement: - Focused on sustaining and growing our region's vibrant economy and outstanding quality of life, **Big Sky Economic Development** provides leadership and resources for business creation, expansion, retention, new business recruitment and community development.

Committee Members Present: **EDA** – Cory Moore, Jennifer Smith, Paul Neutgens, Robin Rude, Ken Lutton
 EDC – Molly Schwend, Eric Simonsen, Mike Seppala

Committee Members Absent: **EDC** – Mike Nelson, Steve Loveless

Staff and Others Present: Steve Arveschoug, Karen Baumgart, Melanie Schwarz, Dustin Frost, Austin Trunkle, Becky Rogers, Jim Tevlin, Evelyn Pyburn

Call to Order:
Cory Moore, EDA Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 A.M.

Agenda Changes for Today's Meeting:
None

Public Comment:
Mike Seppala commented that the NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship will begin in Billings next week. Both Western Security Bank and Big Sky Economic Development will be hosting teams again this year.

Agenda:
Approval of EDA/EDC Executive Committee Minutes

Motion: Ken Lutton to approve the February 2019 Executive Committee Minutes as presented to the Executive Committee.
Second: Eric Simonsen
Discussion: None
Motion: Carried

Approval of EDA/EDC Financials – Jim

Jim mentioned that on the EDA side, there were some funds allocated to the improvements on Conrad Road on Billings' Westend. This work was agreed to when we sold the GE Center of Excellence to Zoot Enterprises. Now that work has been completed, BSED was reimbursed with a check for roughly \$5,000 of unspent funds.

Eric asked where we were holding tax protest dollars within the books and if we included that money in our Future Facility Budget. Jim pointed out the bank account on the Balance Sheet holding the funds and Steve and Becky confirmed the recovery of tax protest dollars were added to the total project budget. Jim also pointed out some of the biggest year-over-year variances in the EDC budget.

Motion: Mike Seppala to approve and forward to the full Board, the January 2019 EDA/EDC Financials as presented to the Executive Committee.
Second: Robin Rude
Discussion: None
Motion: Carried

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 15th. 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 4th 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 15th.

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 29th 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.