

CIC Board Meeting Minutes, March 16, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: Ben Nighswander called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. Board members present Ben Nighswander, Keith Burmeister, Ron Jones, Mark Klein, Commissioner Mick Pocratsky, Ted Penner, Bryan Keller, Sarah Tackett, Jill Little, Dave Figley, Beth Sigg, and Mayor Mike McCann. Robert Langford was present as proxy for Hans Rosebrock. Marc Warncke and Kim Sprague were also present as guests.

Staff members present Erika Willitzer, Hannah Waterman, and Paige Johnson.

Financials: The financials were reviewed by Erika Willitzer. No questions were presented. A motion was made by Mayor Mike McCann to approve the financial statements and credit card statements. Mark Klein seconded the motion. All members present voted yes, and the motion was carried out.

Minutes: The minutes of the February board meeting were reviewed. The motion was made by Beth Sigg and seconded by Bryan Keller. The minutes were approved. All members present voted yes, and the motion was carried out.

Workforce Report: (Attached)

Business Development Report (Attached)

Director's Report: (Attached)

Discussion occurred about the CIC's current initiatives Tuesday Questions of the Day, Mentorship Program, Second Chance Program, Current Projects, and Four Flags of Freedom Campaign. Discussion also occurred about the bylaw review amendments. Ted Penner motioned to approve the bylaws for the annual meeting. Dave Figley seconded the motion. All members present voted yes, and the motion was carried out. Discussion also occurred about the approval to purchase Economic Impact Software. Bryan Keller motioned to approve the \$2500 budget for the software. Ben Nighswander seconded the motion. All members present voted yes, and the motion was carried. No other discussion was presented. At 12:40 pm, Sarah Tackett made a motion to move into a Non-public session and was seconded by Mayor Mike McCann.

At 12:55 pm, a motion was made by Ben Nighswander to come out of a non-public session, seconded by Bryan Keller.

Ted Penner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:56 pm, seconded by Bryan Keller. All members present voted yes, and the motion was carried out. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Johnson

Paige Johnson, Corporate Secretary



March Director's Report

PUBLIC SESSION:

- **DECKED & Apache Acquisition Legislation was Presented.**
 - DECKED is all finalized and submitted to the state.
 - We are still waiting on Apache Acquisition to be formally approved by Defiance City Schools. Decked is applying for a 60% EZ for 10 Years (Going into the Elliott Road Spec Building) and Apache Acquisition is applying for a 80% CRA (Going into the old Carter Lumber on Baltimore Road.)
- **Homegrown Program:** We have budgeted \$10,000 to allocate. So, these would be very small grants. Please review the webpage created. We will try to make it as simple as possible: These applications will be reviewed quarterly.
<https://www.defiancecountyed.com/homegrown>
- Also, we have all the first entries organized and the Homegrown Board will review following our board meeting.
- **Tessengerlo Kerley Inc. Developers in town** – Meeting with them for an update week of 3-13-23
- **Hicksville Spec Building** – Attorney Marc Warncke has been working on, and the company is engaging and in a positive matter. We hope to have this matter closed soon.
- Working on several projects and three different on demo projects/ expansion grants
- Working with a company that has interest in former Credit Adjustment Building

GENERAL MEETINGS ATTENDED:

- Defiance City Council Meeting
- Bi-Monthly Meeting set up by Paige – This event was held at Iron Horse in Sherwood and was well attended.
- Several meetings with elite developers on the Mega Site to Research a path forward.
- Goal Check-Ins with Entire Team
- Attended Premier Bank and First Insurance's Cyber Security Breakfast Training Session
- JobsOhio Quarterly Meeting
- Opening of Phoenix Movie Theater
- Go Red Event in Toledo
- Held a Job Creation Incentive and Defiance County Infrastructure Committee Meeting
- Met with Paulding County's Economic Development Leaders to assist on their re-structuring of their CIC/CICs.
- Attended City of Defiance Comprehensive Planning Meeting
- Met with Sherwood Officials on the possibility of a Spec Building in Sherwood
- OMJ – Joint meeting with Chamber of Commerce

Up Coming Meeting:

March 28th – Ohio Treasurer – This meeting will be by special invite only and the rest of Defiance County can watch virtually.

March Business Development & Operations Report

Restaurant Week:

- We filmed 4 videos for Restaurant week!
 - Kissner's
 - The Dark Horse Social Club
 - Bud's
 - Dos Eppi's
- We will still be offering promotional videos to restaurants even after restaurant week is over. We would also like to branch out into other industries. If you are interested in a promotional video, please let me know and we will get something scheduled.

Bylaws:

- The committee met again a couple weeks ago and approved the suggested changes to the bylaws.
- Asking the board to review, discuss, and approve the suggested changes so we can have them ready to be voted on at our annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Business Awards:

- We are going to be giving away (8) business awards this year at our annual meeting!
 - **Categories:**
 - Defiance County Business of the Year
 - Excellence in Innovation
 - Best in the Industry
 - Best New Business
 - Best Place to Work
 - Family-Owned Business of the Year
 - Veteran-Owned Business of the Year
 - Downtown Business of the Year- DDVB office will be announcing this award at the banquet.
- The nomination form is available on our website and is open until March 31st.
- We are looking for the board to help select the winners of each award. Whole board or committee?

Tuesday Question of The Day- February Responses: (Can view all responses on Facebook)

- Question 1: What riverfront amenity would you like to see in Defiance County?
 - 32 Responses: Top Responses:
 - Amphitheater at Pontiac Park
 - Waterfront Restaurant with docks
 - Waterfront Activities- boat, jet ski, kayak rentals
 - Tridge
 - Riverboat Restaurant
 - Beach area
 - Community Bonfire Spot

- Question 2: What comes to mind when you think of Defiance County?
 - 28 Responses: Top Responses:
 - Historical Buildings and Feeling
 - Christmas Drive Thru & Fair
 - Rivers
 - Defiance College
- Question 3: If you could improve anything about Defiance County What would it be?
 - 53 Responses: Top Responses:
 - Uniformity Guide of Downtown Shops
 - Implemented cleanliness standards for homes and businesses.
 - More pet friendly areas/dog parks
 - More Kids/family activity areas
 - Traffic Flow
 - Community Garden
 - Downtown Parking Garage
 - Better Traffic Light Controls
- Question 4: Why do you live in Defiance County?
 - 32 Responses: Top Responses:
 - Family
 - Work
 - College
 - Hometown that they never left.

Mentorship Program:

- Still have 2 Mentee Spots Available!!

REMINDER: First FINANCE & ECONOMICS MEETING ON MARCH 28th from 10:00-11:00 pm with Guest Speaker Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague (Virtual)

CIC Marketing and Workforce Report

March 2023

Workforce

- Partnered with OhioMeansJob & Defiance Chamber of Commerce to host a Defiance County Employer Workshop. The workshop featured ways on how to maximize the benefits of ohiomeansjob.com (resume and job postings), Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and OhioTechCred.
- Held our first Bi-Monthly Investor Meeting at Iron Horse Brews in Sherwood. Huge success with about 30 attendees. Tony Nighswander from APT Manufacturing & Dave Figley from Premier Bank provided business spotlights. Erika and I updated everyone with what we have going on in our office.
- Our April Roundtable will be a virtual event on Tuesday, March 28th. This month will feature Economics & Finance with Ohio's Treasurer, Robert Sprague. Visit website to register.
- Had 4 businesses (5 positions) reach out to post jobs on all our platforms

Marketing

- Recorded Podcast with our office, Jeff Slattery (4 County Career Center), & Lambert Vanderman (arps Dairy)
- Posted Restaurant Week videos (Paige will go into detail), and Bus Tour videos
- Attended Phoenix Movie Theater Grand Opening Gala
- In the last 28 days on Facebook:

Post Reach: 41,258

Reach = The number of people who saw any of your posts at least once. Reach is different from impressions, which may include multiple views of your posts by the same people. This metric is estimated.

Post Engagement: 15,751

Engagement = The number of reactions, comments, shares and clicks on your posts.

New Followers: 80 people

Followers = The number of new followers of your Facebook Page.

Hide all posts: 0

Unfollows: 0 😊