Call to Order
The Economic Development Committee met at 8:30am and was called to order by Dan Koukol, Chairman of the Kendall County Economic Development Committee.

Roll Call
Members Present: Dan Koukol, Judy Gilmour, Lynn Cullick, Amy Cesich, and Matt Prochaska
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Jeff Wilkins, County Administrator, and John Sterrett, Economic Development Coordinator

Approval of Agenda
Ms. Cesich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Prochaska, to amend the agenda to discuss the Kendall County Job Resource Fair before New Business. With a voice vote of all ayes, the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes
Mr. Prochaska made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gilmour, to approve the February 22, 2013 meeting minutes. With a voice vote of all ayes, the motion carried.

2013 Kendall County Job Resource Fair
Mr. Sterrett stated that the most recent planning meeting with Waubonsee Community College and the Local EDC’s for the Job Resource Fair was rescheduled. Mr. Sterrett stated that he has recruited six employers who have committed to attending and is waiting to hear back from four additional employers. Additional employers will be contacted in the coming weeks. The other Local EDC’s have also begun recruiting employers in their communities. Registration is now open for employers to register to participate in the event. A flier was put together by Waubonsee Community College marketing the event and has been posted on the County’s website.
Ms. Cesich suggested notifying local high schools about the event to inform high school students/graduates about the fair as well as utilizing Facebook to market the event. The next meeting with Waubonsee Community College to go over the job resource fair will occur in the near future.

New Business
Metropolitan Economic Growth Alliance (MEGA)
Mr. Sterrett gave background to the group known as the Metropolitan Economic Growth Alliance, or MEGA. This a regional group of economic development practitioners representing the counties of Kendall, Kane, DeKalb, Will, McHenry, Lake, DuPage, Cook, and Grundy as well as representatives from World Business Chicago and ComEd. This group meets once every two to three months to discuss economic development on a regional and state level and how collaboration between all the members can improve workforce and development in northeastern Illinois. At the most recent MEGA meeting, key pieces of legislation were discussed and their impact on economic development in the state. Mr. Sterrett also mentioned that the County most recently paid dues to MEGA in 2007 in the amount of $1,000. It is anticipated that dues will be submitted this year for the same amount. There was a suggested consensus from the Committee that payments should be made in the amount of $200 over the span of five years to reach the $1,000 total for MEGA. The Committee will discuss this further once the invoice has been received.

Kendall County Tax Abatement Program
Mr. Wilkins gave a history of the County’s involvement with past tax abatements. The first abatement given by the County was for Macy’s Logistics in Minooka. Mr. Wilkins explained that the tax abatement
program assists with the location and expansion of manufacturing and industrial developments. Each taxing district in an area has the ability to abate their portion of the tax bill if they choose to do so. The County has worked with the applicable taxing districts on past abatement applications. Since many of the taxing districts in Kendall County have not previously dealt with tax abatements, it would be ideal to have conversations with them early on to go over the tax abatement procedures and the agreement. Mr. Sterrett briefly went over the draft agreement for tax abatements and explained the clawback provisions within.

Old Business
Business Retention & Expansion Program
Mr. Sterrett reviewed with the Committee the objectives of the County’s Business Retention and Expansion program. Visits with businesses consist of Mr. Wilkins and Mr. Sterrett as well as the director of the applicable local economic development corporation. Mr. Sterrett distributed the list of questions that are typically asked while meeting with a local business owner. Mr. Sterrett stated that he usually initiates a business retention visit by calling and trying to schedule a date and time to meet. The goal is to perform one business visit per month.

Revolving Fund Loans Update
Mr. Sterrett provided a brief update on the two existing loans with the County Mr. Sterrett also stated he worked with the State on supplying additional information for the Revolving Fund semiannual reports.

Other Business
The Committee briefly discussed the recent announcement of Sam’s Club moving to Montgomery and how employers such as Sam’s Club and Costco have an overall positive impact on a community.

Chairman’s Report
Mr. Koukol brought up various downtown revitalization plans within Plano, Yorkville, and Oswego. The committee discussed various ways to help improve downtown areas including how to draw more retail in and improvements to parking facilities.

Public Comment

Executive Committee
None

Adjournment
With no further business to discuss, Mr. Prochaska moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cullick. There being no objection, the Economic Development Committee, at 9:31 a.m., adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

John H. Sterrett
Recording Secretary