Kendall County
Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes - CORRECTED
Friday, April 26, 2013
Kendall County Board Room

Call to Order
The Economic Development Committee met at 8:30 a.m. 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
Other Board Members Present: None
Staff Present: Jeff Wilkins, County Administrator, and John Sterrett, Economic Development Coordinator

Approval of Agenda
Ms. Gilmour made a motion, seconded by Mr. Prochaska, approve the agenda. With a voice vote of all ayes, the motion carried.

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

New Business
U.S. Census Bureau “County-to-County Worker Flow Patterns” 2013
Mr. Sterrett went over the latest data from the Census Bureau on where county residents work and where county workers live. This data was taken from the five year estimates from 2006 to 2010. Mr. Sterrett used this data to develop a list of the different counties where Kendall County workers live and where the residents of Kendall County are employed at. Mr. Wilkins noted that the mean travel time to work for Kendall County residents is around 35 minutes. Some of this information was included in the recent State of the Counties presentation. Copies of the State of the Counties presentation will be brought to the next Committee meeting.

Old Business
Illinois Economic Development Guide
Mr. Sterrett distributed the new Illinois Economic Development Guide to the Committee members. This is the magazine that includes the Kendall County advertisement that was put together by Kendall County and the local EDCs. Mr. Koukol explained that this is a good marketing technique and that it is an opportunity for both the State and the County to attract business from out of state employers. The advertisement used in the magazine was collaboration between the County and the local economic development corporations in the County as well as some of the other communities. The local communities and EDCs helped contribute to pay for the advertisement.

Job Resource Fair
Mr. Koukol gave an update to the planning of the Job Resource Fair and discussed the important role that Waubonsee Community College has played in planning the Job Resource Fair. Waubonsee has been able to provide numerous resources to put together and market the Job Fair. The next meeting on planning the job resource fair will be occurring at the end of May to finalize the preparation for the event. An interview will be set-up with WSPY’s morning show for late May a few weeks prior to the event to discuss the planning stages and the actual event itself. The Committee suggested that it would be a good idea to use Facebook as a way to help market the Job Resource Fair to those who are on Facebook that are currently looking for a job. Mr. Sterrett said he will put this together.
Metropolitan Economic Growth Alliance
Mr. Sterrett reminded the committee about the invoice for the membership to the Metropolitan Growth Alliance that will be coming out soon. Mr. Koukol reiterated splitting the invoice over the next few years to cover the cost of the membership.

Kendall County Tax Abatement Program
Mr. Wilkins gave an overview of the County’s tax abatement program and provided some history to the past tax abatements that have been offered. The first abatement given by the County was for Macy’s Logistics in Minooka. Mr. Wilkins went through the draft abatement agreement and the provisions that are included in such. The program is primarily set up as a way to entice large projects that consist of the either locating or expanding operations associated with manufacturing and industrial uses that will result in job growth and tax revenue for local taxing districts. Each taxing district 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. The next step with the draft would be to forward it to the State’s Attorney’s Office for review.

Staff will bring scenarios of different possible tax abatements to the Committee at the next meeting to review and discuss.

Business Retention & Expansion Program
Mr. Wilkins went over the Business Retention and Expansion program that he and Mr. Sterrett have been active in with visiting local businesses. He explained that many businesses have expressed a desire to expand their facilities in the next 2-3 years. The business retention visits are also a good way to market different community resources for businesses including the tax abatement program and the revolving loan fund. Mr. Koukol stated that Waubonsee Community College also has a Workforce Development program that helps businesses with various workforce needs.

Revolving Fund Loans Update
Mr. Koukol stated he had previously met with the Yorkville Chamber of Commerce and is interested in putting together a presentation on the County’s Revolving Loan Fund program sometime in July or August. Mr. Sterrett provided a brief update on the two existing loans with the County.

Other Business
None

Chairman’s Report
Mr. Koukol mentioned his recent discussions with local chambers of commerce and also mentioned marketing techniques for the County. Mr. Koukol also noted the current road projects taking place in and around the County as well as the improvements to downtown Yorkville. Ms. Cesich discussed the potential poultry processing plant near Newark that was introduced to the Planning, Building, and Zoning Committee. The Committee discussed the petition process for this plant if it were to occur in the unincorporated area of Kendall County.

Public Comment
None

Executive Committee
None
Adjournment
With no further business to discuss, Mr. Prochaska moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gilmour. There being no objection, the Economic Development Committee, at 9:31 a.m., adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
John H. Sterrett
Recording Secretary