Kendall County
Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 28, 2014
Kendall County Board Room

Call to Order
The Economic Development Committee met at 8:35 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, Amy Cesich, and Matt Prochaska (arrived from Housing Authority Meeting at 9:13 a.m.)
Members Absent: Lynn Cullick
Other Board Members Present: None
Staff Present: Jeff Wilkins, County Administrator; and John Sterrett, Economic Development Coordinator
Others Present: Charlene Coulombe-Fiore, Executive Director, Montgomery Economic Development Corporation; and Vijay Gadde, Director, Village of Oswego Economic Development

Approval of Agenda
Ms. Cesich made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gilmour, to approve the March 28, 2014 agenda. With a voice vote of all ayes the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes
Ms. Gilmour made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cesich, to approve the February 28, 2014 meeting minutes. With a voice vote of all ayes the motion carried.

New Business
Montgomery EDC
Ms. Charlene Coulombe-Fiore, Executive Director of the Montgomery Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), thanked the Committee for the work that the County has done with the Montgomery EDC and the relationship between Kendall County and Montgomery EDC. Ms. Coulombe-Fiore said she appreciates the partnership Kendall County has with Montgomery EDC. Ms. Coulombe-Fiore commented on some of the past projects occurring in Montgomery including the new Sam’s Club which is scheduled to open later in the year. Several expansions have occurred in Montgomery over the year. New food companies have also come into Montgomery including Performance Food Group. The International Convention of Shopping Centers will be attended by Montgomery in May. Ms. Coulombe-Fiore also commented on an industrial park tour that the MEDC is organizing to occur later in the summer. The Butterball project in Montgomery was a very important project that occurred during the last year.

Village of Oswego Economic Development
Mr. Vijay Gadde, Director of Economic Development for the Village of Oswego, was hired fourteen months ago and also commended Kendall County for the partnership with the Village on Economic Development. Mr. Gadde went over some of the recent projects within the Village of Oswego including the South Korean owned yogurt company known as Win Soon, Inc. Mr. Gadde stated that the main areas of employment in the Village are service oriented. The former Lowe’s location could potentially be occupied by a new company soon. Efforts continue with the former Dominick’s location. A shopper survey was performed for the Village of Oswego in 2013. Mr. Gadde recommended that the County and/or the Kendall Economic Development Alliance look into implementing a commission to determine clusters and targeted industries for the County, possibly through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. Mr. Gadde notified the group of an informational open house for the construction of Illinois 71 from Orchard Road to U.S. Route 34 in Oswego. Mr. Wilkins stated that this noticed was received very
recently and will be posted on the County’s website. The construction could potentially take up to two years.

Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership
Mr. Sterrett went over a collaborative federal grant that the seven collar counties are working on that will be awarded by the Economic Development Administration. The seven collar county region, if awarded this grant, will be designated as a ‘Manufacturing Community’ and will be eligible for future federal technical assistance oriented towards manufacturing. Up to twelve regional communities throughout the nation will receive this designation. The ‘communities’ that can apply for this designation must be larger than a city and county but must be smaller than a state. This is seen as a way for the collar counties to continue working together on a regional level to improve economic development for the region.

Recommend Approval of Letter of Support for the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership
As part of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership grant, all counties that will be participating in the application will need to submit a letter of support acknowledging they are supportive of this initiative. Mr. Sterrett provided a copy of a draft letter of support for this initiative for the committee.

Mr. Prochaska made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gilmour, to recommend approval of the Letter of Support for the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership. With a voice vote of all ayes, the motion carried. This item will be placed on the April 1, 2014 County Board agenda for action.

Old Business
2014 Kendall County Job and Resource Fair Update
Mr. Sterrett explained the recent meeting that took place to organize the 2014 Job and Resource Fair taking place on June 6th. The employer recruitment portion of the planning will begin shortly.

Growing our Regional Economy Initiative
Mr. Sterrett gave a brief recap of a meeting he attended with John Burscheid of the County Highway Department dealing with universal overweight truck permits. The meeting comprised of all the County Highway engineers for the seven county region to discuss the idea of universal truck permits. This is part of the Growing our Regional Economy Initiative which began in December of 2013.

Revolving Fund Financial Assistance Program
Mr. Sterrett updated the Committee on the status of the existing loans through the County’s Revolving Fund Financial Assistance Program. All existing loans have paid for the month.

Other Business – None

Chairman’s Report - None

Public Comment - None

Executive Committee - None

Adjournment
With no further business to discuss, Mr. Prochaska moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cesich. There being no objection, the Economic Development Committee, at 9:23 a.m., adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
John H. Sterrett,
Recording Secretary