CITY OF KALAMAZOO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD MEETING
Thursday, January 18, 2024
Community Planning and Economic Development
245 N. Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevan Hess; Lucas Middleton; Michael Gurnee; *Sharon Ferraro; Rachel Bair; Jason Novotny; Nathan Bolton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Andrew Schipper; Qianna Decker; Kyle Gulau; Torean Greeley

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Jamie McCarthy (Sustainable Development Coordinator); PJ Thuringer (Economic Development Supervisor); John Weiss (Attorney, Dickinson Wright); Logan Mulholland (Fishbeck, Consultant); Jared Chambers (Business Specialist); Heidi Gartley (Brownfield Project Assistant)

Meeting was called to order at 7:51 AM by Chair Hess.

MOTION TO EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: Director Gurnee moved to excuse absent members; seconded by Director Middleton. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Director Bolton moved approval of the agenda as amended; seconded by Director Novotny. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

Mr. Thuringer shared changes to the wording on New Business items 2 and 3 to include authorization for the EDC Board Secretary to execute the resolutions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Director Middleton moved approval of the minutes from the meeting of December 21, 2023; seconded by Director Gurnee. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk to Approve the 1-year renewal of the Adult Use Retailer Permit for Compassionate Care Advisors, LLC DBA Pincanna.

Mr. Thuringer presented information on the business, as found in the agenda packet.

*Director Ferraro arrived at 7:54 AM.

Cheyenne Benyi, representative of Pincanna, told the board she appreciates their time, and she shared that Pincanna loves being in Kalamazoo.

Director Middleton moved approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk to Approve the 1-year renewal of the Adult Use Retailer Permit for Compassionate Care Advisors, LLC DBA Pincanna; seconded by Director Ferraro.
A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of a recommendation to the City Commission to Contract with Detroit Cannabis, LLC to form the Social Equity Cannabis Chamber consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in the RFP and its proposals as submitted and authorize the EDC Board Secretary to execute resolution.

Mr. Thuringer shared there were five respondents to the RFP and after interviews, staff chose Detroit Cannabis LLC. The business has experience in the space, working with other states and localities on their social equity. He reminded the board they are in uncharted territory with this project.

Mr. Chambers added that this company is already doing a number of items that were included in the RFP. They have a robust educational and training program for people to open their own cannabis business, and ultimately are an entrepreneurial incubator.

Mr. Thuringer shared they are also excited to see what the space looks like for people to be involved in cannabis, but not necessarily the owner of the company. Services such as packaging and graphic design, among others, that are necessary to the industry will help grow small businesses specifically located in the SPK neighborhoods.

Mr. Thuringer shared staff will continue to update the board on this. The contract will go to City Commission soon. For this three-year contract, they are budgeting money that they have not received yet, so staff is working through the financial details before bringing this forward to City Commission.

Director Bolton asked when the contract will start. Mr. Thuringer shared it will start on the date the City Commission approves it.

Director Gurnee moved approval of a recommendation to the City Commission to Contract with Detroit Cannabis, LLC to form the Social Equity Cannabis Chamber consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in the RFP and its proposals as submitted and authorize the EDC Board Secretary to execute resolution; seconded by Director Novotny.
A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval and Ratification of the Award of a Contract to Camoin Associates, Inc. for the Economic Strategy Consultant Services and authorize the EDC Board Secretary to execute resolution.

Mr. Thuringer shared the contract has been previously approved by the board, Management Budget Services, and the City Manager's Office. He brought it to the board to close the loop and begin moving forward with the contract.

Director Gurnee moved Approval and Ratification of the Award of a Contract to Camoin Associates, Inc. for the Economic Strategy Consultant Services and authorize the EDC Board Secretary to execute resolution; seconded by Director Bolton.
A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk to approve the 1-year renewal of the Medical Grower Class C and Adult Use Grower Class C Marijuana Business Permit for The Woods Cultivation LLC DBA AHKI Canna pending completion of dumpster enclosure by January 30, 2024.

Mr. Thuringer presented information on the business, as found in the agenda packet. He shared they have paid their fees, but the dumpster enclosure is not yet complete. They have until January 30, 2024 to finish the dumpster enclosure. The business has a bid and is looking to move forward with it. Once there is confirmation it is complete, staff will forward to the City Clerk. If they do not meet the deadline, they will not be given a renewal.

Director Novotny moved approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk to approve the 1-year renewal of the Medical Grower Class C and Adult Use Grower Class C Marijuana Business Permit for The Woods Cultivation LLC DBA AHKI Canna pending completion of dumpster enclosure by January 30, 2024; seconded by Director Bolton.
A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

At this time, Chair Hess gave an opportunity for Ms. Maria Wadenstorer to share, as she arrived late due to inclement weather.

Ms. Maria Wadenstorer, representative of Pincanna, shared that Pincanna is working hard to earn their place in Kalamazoo. The best way to do that is to hire people that represent the community, kind people, and people that know how important it is to play a bigger role. She believes they are working hard towards that. They are excited to make a difference and belong. She said their spot in the community does not go unappreciated and that they work hard to make sure they hold up to what the community stands for.

STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATES

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 AM by Chair Hess.

Signature
KEVAN HESS
Name/Chair

Signature
Heidi Gartley
Heidi Gartley/Recording Clerk