CITY OF KALAMAZOO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD MEETING
Thursday, December 19, 2024
Community Planning and Economic Development
245 N. Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lucas Middleton; Kevan Hess; Michael Gurnee; Rachel Bair; Jason Novotny; Sharon Ferraro; Andrew Schipper

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kyle Gulau; Torean Greeley; Alonzo Wilson; Nathan Bolton

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Jamie McCarthy (Development Manager); Jerrid Burdue (EDC Liaison/Neighborhood Business & Special Projects Coordinator); *Jessica Wood (Attorney, Dickinson Wright); David Stegink (Consultant, Fishbeck); Jared Chambers (Business Specialist); Heidi Waffle (Brownfield Project Assistant)
*Attorney Wood attended the meeting virtually.

Meeting was called to order at 7:48 AM by Chair Novotny.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Director Ferraro moved approval of the agenda; seconded by Director Middleton. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Director Ferraro moved approval of the minutes from the meeting of November 21, 2024; seconded by Director Middleton. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Middleton said with the end of the year, he recognized that it has been another good year. He appreciates everyone's involvement throughout the year and hopes everyone has a good holiday and 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk's Office for a 1-year approval of 2 Adult Use Class C Grower and 1 Adult Use Processor Permits to Pure, LLC.

The board, staff, and Attorney Wood discussed the filing of personal property statements amongst Cannabis businesses in the city and that they are very frequently filed late, which affects their compliance for a two-year renewal. Board members discussed giving one-year approvals with a second conditional year contingent upon the filing of tax documents. Board members discussed the onerous process these businesses already go through. However, it was also discussed that the late filing may be a business decision deliberately made on behalf of these businesses. Attorney Wood reminded the board that they are a recommending body for these permits and that the Clerk processes the final approval. No change to the motion was made.

Director Middleton moved approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk's Office for a 1-year approval of 2 Adult Use Class C Grower and 1 Adult Use Processor Permits to Pure, LLC; seconded by Director Ferraro.
A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATES

1. Façade/Whitebox Grant Program

Mr. Burdue shared information on the current program and the proposed changes to the program for 2026.

Director Hess asked how businesses are aware of this resource.

Mr. Burdue shared they have not been actively advertising it recently because they have been working through the pre-existing waitlist. They would hope to more actively advertise it in the future. The waitlist has been finished now.

Director Middleton asked what is the expectation for how the EDC board can help expedite the process.

Mr. Burdue shared it would really come down to the approval process and the public meeting in which the approval is granted.

Directors expressed support for the 25% match by businesses.

2. Marihuana Business Permit Renewal Review Committee

Mr. Burdue discussed the Marihuana Business Permit Renewal Review Committee and that current committee members are currently considering stepping off of the committee.

Mr. Chambers shared about the frustrations the Committee has about not being as impactful as they had hoped. In the beginning, the committee was set up to help fill a gap. However, now with the role Mr. Chambers has and the Cannabis Chamber up and running as a resource, it is understandable that the committee does not have the same value it once had.

Director Novotny shared about his prior experience on the Committee. He can understand their frustration as not being a recommending body.

Director Middleton commented on the value of the Committee discussing the social equity goals with the businesses to highlight that importance, but he understands the legal limitations. He would defer to the committee members and whether or not they feel it adds value.

Director Hess said before the Committee was created, there were multiple permits and renewals coming forward every meeting. Now it is down to only a couple every meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 AM by Chair Novotny.

	JASON NOVOTNY	Heidi Waffle
Signature	Printed Name/Chair	Heidi Waffle/Recording Clerk