CITY OF KALAMAZOO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD MEETING
Thursday, January 16, 2025
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; Kyle Gulau; Alonzo Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nathan Bolton

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Jamie McCarthy (Development Manager); Jerrid Burdue (EDC Liaison/Neighborhood Business & Special Projects Coordinator); *Jessica Wood (Attorney, Dickinson Wright); Logan Mulholland (Consultant, Fishbeck); Jared Chambers (Business Specialist); Heidi Waffle (Brownfield Project Assistant); Chelsie Downs-Hubbarth (Community Investment Manager); *Erin Hahn (Community Investment Administrative Assistant)

Meeting was called to order at 7:47 AM by Chair Novotny.

Prior to calling the roll, Chair Novotny shared that Director Greeley has resigned from the EDC and BRA boards.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Director Ferraro moved approval of the minutes from the meeting of December 19, 2024; seconded by Director Middleton. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Gurnee mentioned the previous meeting's discussion regarding requirements for two-year permit renewals for Cannabis businesses. He thinks that the requirement surrounding outstanding property taxes is something the City of Kalamazoo has for marihuana permits but it does not match other permit requirements within the city. He wouldn't mind revisiting that at some point to talk about whether or not they are applying the program consistently across the city boards with similar requests.

Mr. Burdue said it is definitely something worth looking into.

Ms. McCarthy mentioned the difference between personal property taxes and the filing of personal property statements. She thought it would be useful for the board to have the difference between these two terms clarified and that perhaps the assessor can come in to help talk about the terminology and when those items are due. They can talk about what programs have what requirements.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk's Office for a 2-year approval of the Adult Use Retailer Permit to Compassionate Advisors, LLC dba Pincanna.

Director Ferraro moved approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk's Office for a 2-year approval of the Adult Use Retailer Permit to Compassionate Advisors, LLC dba Pincanna; seconded by Director Hess.
A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk's Office for a 2-year approval of the Medical Provisioning & Adult Use Retailer Permits to Focus Group Enterprises, LLC dba STIIIZY.

Director Gurnee moved approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk's Office for a 2-year approval of the Medical Provisioning & Adult Use Retailer Permits to Focus Group Enterprises, LLC dba STIIIZY; seconded by Director Middleton.
A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Adoption of a Resolution in Support of a Revised Business Development Fund (BDF).

Mr. Burdue shared they do not have funding in 2025 for the program but they are hoping to pursue FFE dollars. He reviewed changes that are addressed in the revised version, such as a 25% match by businesses, as well as an application window and scoring rubric. There would be additional assistance for architectural design, which would be beneficial for obtaining the three bids that businesses are required to do. He said they are looking at the EDC having some capacity as a review committee.

Director Gulau asked about the review process and said he worries an ad hoc review process may not be consistent enough.

Director Burdue said ad hoc in this process more so refers it being during a quarter of a year because it will not be a full year commitment for that review committee.

*Ms. Erin Hahn entered the meeting at 8:00AM.

Director Gulau moved adoption of a Resolution in Support of a Revised Business Development Fund (BDF); seconded by Director Schipper.
A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Adoption of a Resolution to Dissolve the Marihuana Business Permit Renewal Committee.

Mr. Burdue said especially with the departure of Director Greeley and no expressed interest from other board members to join the committee, staff is expediting the dissolvement of this committee. They feel that staff has a good handle on it in terms of the review of the permit renewal information and that the Social Equity Chamber should be stepping into a role of assisting marihuana businesses with their social equity plans. He said the future permit process will be much like the permits brought forward today, where staff will bring a recommendation and there is room for any questions or comments from the board. He said eliminating one of the steps to attend a committee meeting will help streamline the process for Cannabis businesses.

Mr. Burdue discussed that the resolution is open to further evaluate in the future the level of which the EDC wants to be involved in the renewal process, as well as if it should shift to more of an administrative review.

Director Ferraro said she likes the idea of making it administrative, because being able to look at all the boxes a business has checked in the process allows the board to see where the problems are.

Mr. Chambers explained further about the Social Equity Cannabis Chamber's role as a resource for businesses in their social equity initiatives.

Director Middleton moved adoption of a Resolution to Dissolve the Marihuana Business Permit Renewal Committee; seconded by Director Hess.
A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

*Attorney Wood entered the meeting at 8:06 AM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Gulau mentioned the topic of how the EDC can start measuring some of the leading metrics with the Economic Development Strategy. He said he heard the site plan review process for the City is changing and he is wondering how they as a board can start thinking about how they might measure that process as one of the tools of economic development.

Ms. McCarthy stated she can put that on the list as they move towards the board retreat.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Burdue shared they are working on gathering input from the development community regarding the OPRA policy and hopefully it will go back to City Commission in February or March.

Mr. Burdue shared he will be leaving the City of Kalamazoo and that his last day is January 17. He said it has been great working with the board and thanked the board for his time working with them.

Chair Novotny thanked Mr. Burdue for all that he contributed.

STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATES

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 AM by Chair Novotny.

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