# CITY OF KALAMAZOO
# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD MEETING
## Thursday, April 17, 2025
## Community Planning and Economic Development
## 245 N. Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kevan Hess; Jason Novotny; Sharon Ferraro; Kyle Gulau; Andrew Schipper; Michael Gurnee; Rachel Bair

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Nathan Bolton; Lucas Middleton; Alonzo Wilson

**CITY STAFF PRESENT**: Jamie McCarthy (Development Manager); Jessica Wood (Attorney, Dickinson Wright); Logan Mulholland (Consultant, Fishbeck); Jared Chambers (Business Specialist); Heidi Waffle (Brownfield Project Assistant); Paul Thuringer (Development Administrator); Erin Hahn (Community Investment Administrative Assistant)

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

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: Director Gurnee moved approval of the minutes from the meeting of March 20, 2025; seconded by Director Ferraro. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

### DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Recommend approval to the City Commission to appoint three new EDC/BRA Board Members and to reappoint three current board members for a second term.

Director Gulau discussed the process the nominating subcommittee went through to review board member applications and conduct interviews. They have identified three really good candidates out of the seven applicants, which includes Mr. Scott Petersen, Mr. Eddie Warr, and Mr. TJ Ward. He shared how each candidate will contribute to a well-rounded board.

Director Hess said Mr. Petersen and Mr. Warr live in the City of Kalamazoo. TJ lives outside of the city limits but has a business in the City. He mentioned their passion for Kalamazoo is what made them such strong candidates. He thinks they will be great additions from an expertise standpoint and also a collaboration standpoint.

Director Hess went on to thank the board and City staff for being so great to work with in his time on the board in the last twelve years. He is sad to go but excited to see the work that is to come.

Chair Novotny thanked the nominating subcommittee for their time and commitment to find good quality candidates.

Ms. McCarthy mentioned one of the new appointees will be filling Director Greeley's partial term. She was wondering if there was one of the three candidates that they wanted to recommend for a partial term, which would make the individual eligible to serve the partial term and two terms thereafter.

Director Gulau said the nominating subcommittee will discuss and consider who to recommend for the partial term.

Director Schipper thanked Director Hess and Director Gulau for their time interviewing candidates.

**Director Hess moved approval to recommend the City Commission appoint three new EDC/BRA Board members and to re-appoint three current board members for a second term; seconded by Director Schipper.**
**A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

2. Approval of a proposal from Restorative Economics Group to develop leading metrics for the performance targets of the Economic Development Strategy.

Mr. Chambers explained if this is approved, the plan is to have Restorative Economics Group attend the EDC/BRA Retreat to work with the group.

**Director Gulau moved approval of a proposal from Restorative Economics Group to develop leading metrics for the performance targets of the Economic Development Strategy; seconded by Director Bair.**
**A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.**

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

## STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATES

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**: Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 AM by Chair Novotny.

| Signature | JASON NOVOTNY<br>Printed Name/Chair | Heidi Waffle<br>Heidi Waffle/Recording Clerk |
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