
CITY OF KALAMAZOO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD MEETING
Thursday, May 15, 2025
Community Planning and Economic Development
245 N. Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Novotny; Sharon Ferraro; Rachel Bair; Lucas Middleton; Alonzo Wilson; Scott Petersen; T.J. Ward, Eddie Warr

MEMBERS ABSENT: Andrew Schipper; Kyle Gulau; Michael Gurnee

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); Erin Hahn (Community Investment Administrative Assistant)

*Attorney Wood attended the meeting virtually.

Meeting was called to order at 7:50 AM by Chair Novotny.

City Clerk, Scott Borling, performed the Swearing-In of new members Scott Petersen, TJ Ward, and Eddie Warr appointed by the City Commission to serve on the EDC/BRA Boards of Directors.

Members Rachel Bair, Kyle Gulau, and Jason Novotny were also reappointed.

MOTION TO EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: Director Middleton moved to excuse absent members; seconded by Director Bair. 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 Bair moved approval of the minutes from the meeting of April 17, 2025; seconded by Director Ferraro. Motion approved by voice vote unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Middleton welcomed Directors Petersen, Ward, and Warr to the Board.

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 Thrive Enterprises LLC dba Cookies Kalamazoo.

Jared Chambers, Business Specialist, explained to new members that cannabis businesses with a gold-star designation and no outstanding issues with the City or taxes are eligible for a 2-year renewal. He further explained that Cookies has been in business for several years, has a gold-star designation, has no outstanding issues with the City, and has been involved with several Social Equity Cannabis Chamber Events, putting them in good standing for a 2-year renewal.

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 Thrive Enterprises LLC dba Cookies Kalamazoo; seconded by Director Middleton. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk's Office for a 1-year approval of the Adult Use Processor Permit to 3300 Miller Road, LLC contingent upon the Applicant correcting the Fire and Building code deficiencies by May 31, 2025; if not corrected by that date, a 90-day probationary renewal will be automatically recommended.

A recommendation was presented for a one-year renewal of the Adult Use Processor Permit for 3300 Miller Road, LLC, contingent upon the applicant correcting all fire and building code deficiencies by May 31, 2025. If these deficiencies are not resolved by that date, a 90-day probationary renewal will be automatically recommended.

Jared Chambers spoke regarding this item and the following agenda item together. He noted that both businesses are under the same ownership, are locally owned, and are among the City's original cannabis businesses. He acknowledged their contributions to the community and added that code deficiencies prevented a two-year renewal.

Erin Farrell, representing Refine Michigan, shared that the dispensary opened in 2019 and the processor facility at 3300 Miller Road began operations in 2022. She stated that both have been doing well despite the challenges in the market and affirmed that the team is committed to correcting the outstanding deficiencies.

Commissioner Wilson moved approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk's Office for a 1-year approval of the Adult Use Processor Permit to 3300 Miller Road, LLC contingent upon the Applicant correcting the Fire and Building code deficiencies by May 31, 2025; if not corrected by that date, a 90-day probationary renewal will be automatically recommended; seconded by Director Middleton. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk's Office for a 1-year approval of the Adult Use Retailer Permit to Refine Michigan Co., contingent upon the Applicant correcting the Fire and Building code deficiencies by May 31, 2025; if not corrected by that date, a 90-day probationary renewal will be automatically recommended.

Jared Chambers presented a recommendation for a one-year renewal of the Adult Use Retailer Permit for Refine Michigan Co., contingent upon the applicant correcting all fire and building code deficiencies by May 31, 2025. If the deficiencies are not resolved by that date, a 90-day probationary renewal will be automatically recommended.

During discussion, Director Ferraro pointed out a discrepancy in the fire inspection address, which listed "123 E South Street" instead of the correct site at "3650 Alvan Road." Staff confirmed this was a clerical error carried over from a previous template. Director Peterson asked about the spelling of "marihuana" in the documents, which led to clarification from both Director Ferraro and City Attorney Jessica Wood that the spelling reflects the wording used in the state legislation and is maintained for compliance purposes.

Director Middleton moved approval of a recommendation to the City Clerk's Office for a 1-year approval of the Adult Use Retailer Permit to Refine Michigan Co., contingent upon the Applicant correcting the Fire and Building code deficiencies by May 31, 2025; if not corrected by that date, a 90-day probationary renewal will be automatically recommended; seconded by Director Warr. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATES

1. 2025 Q1 Budget Reports (Account 728 & 743)

Jared Chambers presented the Q1 budget update for the EDC. It was noted that the \$355,000 shown under professional and contractual services includes \$300,000 in revenue that will be transferred into the Social Equity Fund. City Hall is currently facilitating that transfer, and once completed, the Q2 report will reflect this adjustment and appear more streamlined.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 AM by Chair Novotny.



Signature

JASON NOVOTNY
Printed Name/Chair



Erin Hahn/Recording Clerk