

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2016
6:30 PM**

1.0 Roll Call

Roll call was called for at 6:42 PM

PRESENT: Alderman Moisio, Taylor, Valko

ABSENT: Alderman May, Cunningham

Vice-Chair Alderman Valko conducted the meeting.

2.0 Approval of the December 21, 2015 Minutes

Motion by Alderman Taylor, seconded by Alderman Moisio, to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2015 Economic Development Committee meeting. Voice vote: AYES: All NAYES: None.

3.0 Old Business

NONE.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Economic Development Series

Presenter: Greater Waukegan Development Coalition

A presentation as part of a series highlighting organizations that work together with Waukegan to forward the City's economic development policy

Steve Patterson, Jared Dellinger, Michael Edgar and Roy Czajkowski were present on behalf of the Greater Waukegan Development Coalition.

Steve Patterson gave an introductory overview of the Greater Waukegan Development Coalition, which he described as an independent not for profit, 501(c)(3) development corporation whose mission is to foster the development of businesses and real estate throughout the greater Waukegan Area. Steve went on to define the "greater Waukegan area" as that area which is bound by Lake Michigan on the east, Illinois Route 176 on the south, Interstate 94 on the west and Wisconsin on the north. They accomplish fostering the development of businesses and real estate throughout the greater Waukegan Area by bolstering the region's economic ecosystem by providing a variety of programs and events, along with helping current and potential businesses with placement, expansion and retention.

Steve Patterson said that the GWDC is founded by business owners, for business owners, and that they seek to showcase the Greater Waukegan Area as an environmentally resilient place to conduct business, as well as its untapped opportunities. They offer technical expertise for local businesses and projects include the Carnegie

Library. They have also partnered with the Waukegan Port District to secure an IDNR grant for a Port District Master Plan. They have also entered a lease agreement with the City of Waukegan for the office space at 13 N. Genesee Street to create a Tech Hub. They will be having a ribbon-cutting ceremony this Thursday. The Tech Hub is in partnership with the Lake Forest Business Incubator. And they are also partnering with an incubator in China.

Jared Dellinger stated that they are strategically situated along Lake Michigan between Milwaukee and Chicago, and that the greater Waukegan area has unparalleled access to transportation, a diverse workforce and many outdoor recreational amenities. The GWDC helps to develop and nurture “up and coming” visionaries. The GWDC model has four components: Develops, Innovates, Celebrates, and Invests. The GWDC also provides on-going assistance through internships and incubator program. Jared stated that the Think Tank Program has worked with over 30 businesses since 2012.

5.0 Adjournment

With no other items of discussion, motion was made by Alderman Moisio, and seconded by Alderman Taylor, to adjourn the committee meeting at 5:56 PM. AYES: Moisio, Taylor, Valko
NAYES: None.