



Meeting: Go Topeka Board of Directors

Location: Zoom Meeting

Date: August 4, 2020

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 pm

In attendance: Stephen Wade, Dan Foltz, Mike Padilla, Brent Trout, Scott Anderson, Allen Moore, Martha Piland, Treena Mason, Marsha Pope, Diana Ramirez, Jeff Russell, Linda Briden, Tammy Dishman, Aaron Mays, Jacob Wamego, Abby Frye, Kevin Hahn, Renita Harris, Jerry Farley, Doug Wolff, Cassandra Taylor, Daina Williams, Kevin Burton, Madan Rattan, Matt Strathman, Steven Anderson, Wade Jueneman, Shane Sommars, Shane Hillmer

Staff: Sandy Tucker, Katrin Bridges, Glenda Washington, Curtis Sneden, Molly Howey, Michelle Stubblefield, Matt Pivarnik, Natalie Zeller, Rhiannon Friedman, Barbara Stapleton, Sean Dixon, Freddy Mawyin

Dan Foltz Called the meeting to order at 3:00pm

Approval of Minutes

Correction to June 2, 2020 minutes – add Martha Piland and Linda Briden to attendee list

Motion to approve the June 2, 2020 minutes and seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Financial Update

The packet provides the financial statements through June 30 as well has a list of notes to explain some highlights.

On the statement of financial position, the investment account halfway through assets shows we are down \$2.6 million – this is from gifting land to Walmart through their incentive packet. This shows as an expense on the income statement.

Deferred revenue is a deduction as well for the closing of Walmart distribution center, which will also be recognized in expenses.

On the statement of activities, public revenue is almost \$2 million higher than last year due to the land that was provided to Walmart as part of their incentive package.

The notes describe the rest of the accounts and their movements

Crop damage income – this is to cover the damage for the crops that were not able to be produced with Walmart working on the land. This will eventually be reimbursed to GO Topeka.

The GO Topeka audit has been reviewed in the draft version with the executive committee last month, and since then there have been no material changes to the draft. Auditors are holding the report open until they are comfortable with movement between GO Topeka and the GTP. The final audit will be reviewed in a special meeting.

Motion for approval of the financial statements and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



Nominating Committee

The nominating committee met twice to review the talent list, paying attention to diversity and future needs of board. There are two groups of recommendations to serve on the Board effective January 1, 2021.

Group 1 to serve a 3-year term from January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023. These individuals are:

Tammy Dishman
Dan Foltz
Calla Haggard
Shane Hillmer
Kurt Kuta
Allen Moore
Jeff Russell
Daina Williams

Group 2 will serve a 1-year term from January 1 – December 31, 2021. These individuals are:

Diana Ramirez
Cassandra Taylor
Jacob Wamego
Doug Wolff
Sarah Girard
Brittany Crabtree
Scott Hunsicker
Lalo Munoz

Motion to adopt report of nominating committee and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bylaws Update

The bylaws update outlines common processes between the different entities of the GTP. There are no major changes to the bylaws.

Motion to adopt Uniform Bylaws Provisions and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Projects Update

Project Urban – we were one of 3 final communities being considered by Urban Outfitters, and we were recently notified that they selected a site in Wyandotte County next to the Kansas Speedway. Our wages are higher than Wyandotte County, and that was one of the main reasons we did not win this project.

So far in 2020 we have 29 new business attraction projects– in 2019 there were 24 in total. Of these new projects, 8 are manufacturing, and 6 projects are in bio science/animal health. This says a lot about what we're doing in our community.

We are showing 8 BRE projects on the slide, but there have been more come through this year. Project Prince will be officially announced at JEDO. The average wages of these projects are \$47k.



Innovation Update

Just announced Cargill as the first founding partner for Plug and Play. We have three more corporate partners in the final contract stage and will hopefully announce those soon, then we'll have one more spot to fill in order to hit our goal of five sponsorships.

Topeka is now on the Plug and Play website. www.plugandplaytechcenter.com/topeka

We are on track for rolling out the first cohort program in September for companies to start applying. Animal Health Corridor Summit is August 31 – Sept 2. We are co-sponsoring with Plug and Play as Plug and Play Topeka. Next steps are refining Topeka's position in the animal health corridor.

Starting to think about possible incentives for start-ups.

Innovation Campus: We are looking at the viability of different sites – the Kanza Science & Technology Park, and the downtown riverfront area. Both developers are developing viability assessments for each site. We've put together a taskforce from IAB and other community leaders who are providing feedback to the assessment. We've met with both of the developers and the results are site selection recommendations, size of campus, timeline of the project, and thinking through what a post Covid workplace looks like. Both developers have been challenged to provide innovative but affordable ideas to adjust to post Covid. We expect results in the fall and final results by end of the year.

Workforce Transportation

The slide shows a snapshot of our workforce transportation since inception of the rider program in 2018 and shows a breakdown of number of rides and funding for SOTO and NETO. We've used JEDO funds of just under \$300k for this program since inception. We will be discussing the program again at the September JEDO meeting as there are community members concerned about the program ending.

We've had discussions with employers about them having their own ridership programs. The number of riders isn't high enough to support a full route with the Topeka Metro. The future discussions with JEDO and the board are to determine what can be done in the future, whether it is extending funding for a similar program or how that looks. Mike Padilla asked how many people would not be able to get to work if this program went away. Barbara will try to get the information of how many individual riders use the program on a regular basis.

HOST Program

The HOST Program has been extremely active. We had planned to disperse about \$500k on the public side of HOST by this time, and so far we are at \$470k, impacting 159 businesses so far.

On the private side, we still have about \$50k left to disperse and we are strategizing on the best way to use this, looking for where the greatest need lies. The number of displaced workers has also slowed down but we now have another round of workers to provide gift cards to.

Digital Equity

Broadband interest has been a topic of conversation among community recovery taskforces as many areas are impacted by this, including businesses, government, telehealth and reopening of schools. We will email you a national broadband survey report. Data highlights perceptions about broadband, it shows that the costs of services and being in remote areas are some of the biggest areas of broadband access. We will have a discussion with David Winston statewide on the issues with broadband in partnership with the Kansas Leadership Center on August 20th at 10:00 am on Zoom. Digital Equity conversations will continue to be had as these issues need to be resolved in order to move forward.



Cares Funding/Sparks Committee

Kansas received \$1.25 billion in Cares funding, and the Sparks committee is allocating money to the counties. Shawnee County is receiving \$37.6 million in round one, and there could be more that will be allocated in a different way. The county committee is first looking at how Covid caused unexpected expenses, and depending on how those funds go, they will next look at businesses, non-profits, etc., to see where else they can provide additional funds.

Economic Recovery Taskforce

The economic recovery dashboard is available on supporttopeka.com. The number of new job postings online is increasing. The total earnings in June 2020 dropped from 16% compared to June 2019. The week of Aug 1st, there were about 3,600 unemployment claims in the county, this number has dropped from a little over 7,000 at its peak in April, but is still high compared to our average of 420 weekly claims. Shawnee county has an unemployment rate of 7.4%. Labor could be back to pre-Covid numbers by the 4th quarter 2021. Food services, arts, entertainment unemployment rate is around 35%. Consumer spending is improving but not quite where it was pre-Covid. People are spending more online rather than in the local market. Recommendations, if we do get some of the Sparks federal funds, includes possibly incentivize businesses, supporting those suffering from food insecurity. Public health dashboard – positive cases are doubling every two months instead of every two weeks. The upward trend is slowing down. PPE and hospital beds are still at good levels

<https://supporttopeka.com/economic-recovery-dashboard-2/>

July numbers should be available in the next week or two. Wichita and Johnson counties have different primary industries than us. We are doing better than Wichita and Johnson county is doing slightly better than us. Sales tax receipts are just 1% lower than last year.

Equity & Inclusion

After the protests, the Small Business Council and WMBD both created an equity statement. Page 28-29 of the packet show a copy of their equity statements. We would like every board/council to create an equity statement to advocate for inclusion. As an organization we're looking at how we can spend better, hire better, market better to advocate for inclusion, and how we communicate externally and work with other organizations to remove barriers, increase diversity and become an inclusive community. Creating a project called, "A Seat at the Table" that will involve all of the community and looking at our SWOTs. We'll look at measurements to show our progress towards becoming a totally inclusive community. We'll also have CEO Roundtables to see what companies are doing, an INCLUDED Summit in the spring, and looking at education disparities and starting a program called "Thursday's Child" working with kids in the community. More info to come from Glenda.

Management Report

We recently hired a new Forge Executive Director, Kelli Maydew starting August 10

Working with marketing on a new logo and revamping the website.

We are looking remote working and an adjustment to Choose Topeka

We are working on the 2021 budget and prepping for the September JEDO meeting.

If you have a chance to check out the progress on the Walmart distribution center, please do so.

Talking with developers on how to market available sites in Topeka and Shawnee County

Working on strategies to be more aggressive with our Aerospace opportunities at Forbes Field.

Introduction of Sean Dixon, President of Visit Topeka <https://www.linkedin.com/in/seanmdixon>

Minutes Taken By:

Trina Goss