



MEETING: GO Topeka Board of Directors

LOCATION: Greater Topeka Partnership, Board Room

DATE: February 4, 2020

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

Board: Dan Foltz, Robert Kenagy, Kurt Kuta, Marsha Pope, Scott Anderson, Martha Piland, Stephen Wade, Doug Wolff, Allen Moore, Tammy Dishman, Wade Jueneman, Kevin Hahn, Steve Anderson, Abbey Frye, Jeff Russell, Cassandra Taylor, Jacob Wamego, Diana Ramirez, Calla Haggard, Eric Johnson, Brent Trout, Jerry Farley, Commissioner Mays, Eugene Williams, Kevin Burton

Staff: Bob Ross, Glenda Washington, Karen Christilles, Katrin Bridges, Freddy Mawyin, Rhiannon Friedman, Molly Howey, Trina Goss, Natalie Zeller, Matt Pivarnik, Michelle Stubblefield, Vince Frye

Dan Foltz called the meeting to order.

Welcome and Introductions

Consent Agenda

The 2019 end of year draft financials are on cash basis, however as of January 1 we are now on the accrual basis. Financials are in draft form because end of year is not complete until the audit is complete. Still working on a few entries to finalize books, so financials are materially correct but could change a little. The overall variance is 2.1 million better than budget, which shouldn't change with the final entries. Final financials will be presented at a later meeting.

Motion moved to accept draft of financials and seconded. Motion approved.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is chaired by Dr. Kenagy and includes immediate past chair Kurt Kuta, Marsha Pope, Martha Piland, Marvin Spees, and Abby Frye. There are 2 more spots open on the committee and people have been identified to fill these spots, but it has not yet been discussed with them. A motion to approve the final two members should be on the April agenda.

Motion to accept members and seconded. Motion approved.

Corporate Governance Documents

Starting on page 11 of the packet are the Antitrust Compliance statement, Ethical Practice statement & Family & Business Relationship statement. If these forms have not been completed, please do so and return to Trina Goss.

Vice Chair Roles

Diana Ramirez will be the Vice Chair of Talent Initiatives working with Barbara on workforce development and Choose Topeka. Matt Strathman will be the Vice Chair of Small Business and Incentives working with Glenda and team. Motion to approve the creation of the two roles and add to the board as formal positions for 2020, moved and seconded. Motion approved.

Projects Updates & Approvals

Overview of the process for new projects and approvals with a reminder of the importance of confidentiality of projects. Next JEDO meeting is Feb 12 and 3 projects will be brought to the meeting for approval. All project details are on pages 8-10 of the packet.

Project Bond - up to 75 new jobs with an average wage of \$45K and \$422,500 in incentives. Motion to approve and seconded. Motion approved.

Explanation was provided of how incentives are earned and paid. Each job that we're incentivizing is paid out as earned over 5 years. If we are reimbursing for training, the company would turn in receipts and hours related to training.

Question was raised if we have thresholds that we follow to qualify for the incentives. We focus on the average wage and have a formula we work with to determine the economic impact.

Project Spark – Up to 167 new jobs with total incentives of \$847,000. Motion to approve and seconded. Motion approved.

Project Prince – Up to 33 new jobs with total incentives of \$341,000. – Motion to approve and seconded. Motion approved.

Updates on new business:

Project Bulldog – Distribution center, still do not have average wage. Building good relationships with multiple visits.

Project Choose – Aerospace project - will be back on Feb 17 with a larger team. 350K sq hanger space. We are under an NDA on this project.

Choose Topeka

Campaign earned media – over \$4.8m of earned media worldwide, over 3,000 people have expressed interest in moving to Topeka.

Relocation update - Employers are looking for critical hard to fill positions. We currently have 9 employer candidates with matching JEDO funds totaling \$62,500. Local businesses can submit positions through the candidate website.

Reach out to Barbara if you or your HR department would like to tap into the database of people who are interested in moving to Topeka.

Housing in our community will need to be addressed soon.

Innovation update

Plug and Play Accelerator – A 3-month program running twice a year with up to 10-12 start ups in Topeka in the areas of animal health and ag tech.

We are having active conversations with potential corporate partners and have 3 partners that have committed. Conversations planned with 7 more potential partners. Plug and Play kick off is on March 3rd. Introducing panels on ag health, animal health and supply chain. This will give Topeka an idea of what to expect with Plug and Play. Still working on building regional partners, as this is very much a regional effort.

There is a lot of opportunity with Plug and Play including an opportunity to have an economic impact with plans for the innovation center and innovation campus.

Innovation campus idea came out of the need for lab space for start-ups. Four sites are under consideration for an innovation campus with plans for a mixed-use building with office space, lab space and possibly an event space. In conversations with a 2nd potential anchor tenant. Thinking about having multiple buildings, with the idea to fill one building to about 80%, then start construction on the next building. We are speaking with 3 contractors to create architectural renderings.

Transportation initiatives

SOTO Ride to Work program pilot began in 2018 and moved into a 2nd phase in 2019, now moving to phase 3. NETO is moving into stage 2.

There are 750 - 800 monthly riders each month between both SOTO and NETO programs, last year was fully subsidized by JEDO, with a 50/50 match this year between the employer and JEDO., This was initially designed as a pilot, not designed to continue indefinitely. Employers can indicate if this is something they would like to continue and manage the bulk of the cost for their employees long term even after the SOTO and NETO programs end.

Management report

New management report should be in your inbox.

Working with Michelle leading strategy of connecting Momentum 2022 with GO Topeka strategic plan.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Trina Goss