

MEETING MINUTES
Economic Community Affairs Committee (ECA)
Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation
Wednesday, October 27, 2009

Present: Elizabeth Eismeier, Steven Evans, Barry Rothfeld (Chair), Kathy Schibanoff, and Tom Sipos

Staff: Jasmin Haylett, John MacEnroe, and Tamara Watson

Absent: Mike Arnoff, Vincent Bettina, Stephen W. Cole, Kathleen Durham, Roger Higgins, Barbara Kram, Bill Lavery, Mike McCormack, Donald McGrath, Betsy Seaman Brown, Denise VanBuren, and Jennifer Van Tuyl

Call to Order and Welcome

Barry Rothfeld, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Welcome & Announcement

Barry welcomed all present and announced that Tamara Watson will be retiring. Her last day with EDC will be on Friday, November 13, 2009.

BEA Report

In Betsy's absence, Tamara Watson reported on the following:

- ◆ The current attendance for the Business Excellence Awards is 350
- ◆ Last year around this time it was \$380
- ◆ The gross revenue for last year was \$64,600
- ◆ The gross revenue to date is \$52,400, which is \$12,200 less than last year
- ◆ The projected gross revenue for the BEA is \$70,000
- ◆ Need increased attendance

To gain more media coverage for the BEAs, Tom offered to have John on his radio show, and Barry asked Tamara to send him a press release for the Poughkeepsie Journal. Barry also suggested that Tamara send the press release to other newsmedia.

Tentative Board Meeting Dates and Suggested Locations and Topics

January 28 meeting – Location: Marist College. **Topic:** economic forecast for the upcoming year with a panel representing the sectors of real estate, labor, education, tourism, health, technology, and banking.

April 29 meeting – Location: Beacon Institute (Education Center of REON). **Topic:** environment and technology

Future Board Meetings: looking at the right time to feature the solar industry and SpectraWatt

E-Messages

- ◆ “*What’s In It For Me*” e-messages are ready for review
- ◆ Tamara will give a copy to John for final review
- ◆ The committee needs to decide whether they want to proceed with these e-messages.
- ◆ If committee is in agreement, the e-messages can start in January 2010.
- ◆ CDs from both Chambers with email addresses were purchased for this purpose

ECA Mission Statement

The committee reviewed and revised the ECA Mission Statement. It now reads:

“To develop the EDC brand and market it to stakeholders by highlighting key opportunities and challenges related to economic development in Dutchess County.”

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next ECA meeting was not scheduled.