

MINUTES

DUTCHESS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, July 30, 2009, 7:45 a.m.

Held at:
Hampton Inn & Suites
Hudson River Room
2361 South Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Present: R. Akeley, M. Arnoff, J. Bonura, Jr., P. Calogerakis, R. Chazen, A. DeDominicis, J. DeMarco, R. Grems, K. Hansen, E. Kellogg, J. MacEnroe, M. Madden, M. McCormack, T. McQuade, B. Morgan, W. Nussbickel, C. O'Mara, B. Rothfeld, R. Savage, K. Schibanoff, W. Steinhaus, M. Tomkovitch, D. VanBuren, L. Weigert

Absent: D. Conklin, C. Daniels, T. Dean, K. Durham, B. Eismeier, S. Evans, M. Graham, R. Higgins, D. McGrath, B. Seaman Brown, J. Van Tuyl

Also: C. Wolf (Poughkeepsie Journal), D. Minichino (Mid Hudson News Network), N. Giordano (Dutchess County Executive Office), P. Wassell (DC Legislature), D. Aronzon (Vassar Brothers Medical Center). DCEDC Staff: P. Balga, J. Haylett, L. Higginson, D. Hopper, T. Kelly, N. Lutz, C. Maloney, G. Rutherford, M. Vrba, T. Watson, P. Winne

Welcome and Opening Remarks – Wayne L. Nussbickel

Wayne Nussbickel, Chair, called the second quarterly meeting for 2009 of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors to order at 7:50 a.m. The meeting took place at the new Hampton Inn & Suites on South Road in Poughkeepsie.

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 30, 2009 Board Meeting as presented was made by Karen Hansen, duly seconded by Richard Chazen, and unanimously accepted.

Wayne introduced our host Frances Soechtig, Director of Sales of the Hampton Inn & Suites Poughkeepsie and thanked her and Jim Friend, President & CEO of Friend Development Group, LLC, for their hospitality. Fran welcomed us and briefly described the newly constructed inn, its theme, progress and success to date.

President's Report – John MacEnroe

The President's Report was previously emailed. John highlighted the following:

- Board material is only being distributed using electronic mail. The financial report will, for the time being, be the only exception.

- BEA Sponsor thus far include:

Platinum
Associated Aircraft Group

Gold
Health Quest

Silver
Saint Francis Hospital and Health Centers

Bronze
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation
Marshall & Sterling Insurance
Morris Associates
Riverside Bank

- Spectra Watt – 110,000 sf; 161 jobs
- eMagin – 37,000 sf; TBD jobs
- AAG – success story
- NXP – will work to backfill open positions
- ARRA Stimulus – NYSERDA presentation/event being developed
- Quadricentennial – Walkway Over The Hudson on track. Thanks to Mary Kay Vrba and her team for their fine work on this effort.

Committee Reports

Governance Committee – Wayne Nussbickel

- This report was covered in the President's Report.

Economic Community Affairs Committee – Barry Rothfeld

- BEAs – Continuing to work on event scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 5:30 p.m. at The Grandview.
- Firming up subject matter for the October 29 Board meeting to be held at ERVK. Steven V. Lant, Chairman of the Board, President and CEO of CH Energy Group, Inc. will be our guest speaker. The topic will be: *A Decade After Deregulation: The State of New York's Energy Industry*. Board members are encouraged to submit questions (through Denise VanBuren at dvanburen@cenhud.com) prior to the meeting.
- Working on condensing the committee mission statement.

Operational Oversight Committee – C. O'Mara for Mike Graham

- The committee reviewed the 2008 Audit Report by Van Norstrand & Houlihan CPAs & PC, There were no written management letter comments.

A motion to approve the 2008 Audit Report by Van Norstrand & Houlihan CPAs & PC as presented was made by Charlie O'Mara, duly seconded by Art DeDominicis, and unanimously accepted.

- David Wise, Esq., an Operational Oversight Committee member, has recommended all EDC Board and Committee members complete and sign a Conflict of Interest Policy (COI Policy) on an annual basis. EDC Board members have already done so. All other EDC committee members will be mailed a COI Policy and Questionnaire next week.

Business Services Committee – Paul Calogerakis

- Healthcare Power Lunch seminar was held on May 21 at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel.
- Planning seminar focusing on energy programs from NYSERDA.
- Determining future work issues:
 - Healthcare
 - Energy deregulation
 - CEO forum series

Paul thanked Cathy Maloney for staff support.

Tourism Committee – Denise Doring VanBuren

- Denise thanked the County for its support for local tourism events. The 4th of July event was very successful with a crowd estimated at 7,000.

Wayne thanked all committee chairs and committee members for their participation, support, and contributions to DCEDC.

Financial Report – *Charlie O'Mara for Michael H. Graham*

Charlie presented the second quarter 2009 financial report.

A motion to approve the report as presented was made by John MacEnroe, duly seconded by Bob Grems, and unanimously accepted.

New Business/Comments

DCEDC Board Chair Wayne Nussbickel commented on the following:

- David Wise, Esq., an Operational Oversight Committee member, has recommended all EDC Board and Committee members complete and sign a Conflict of Interest Policy (COI Policy) on an annual basis. EDC Board members have already done so. All other EDC committee members will be mailed a COI Policy and Questionnaire next week.

- The Dutchess County Legislature called for a compliance review of local agencies by the New York State Budget Office. EDC continues to be in compliance.

DCEDC President John MacEnroe commented on the following:

- Hudson Beach Glass will be providing unique awards for this year's Business Excellence Awards.
- In 2010, EDC will collaborate with the five local colleges and two chambers to develop an intern program to encourage students to return to Dutchess County for job opportunities and social life upon graduation.

Dutchess County Executive William R. Steinhaus commented on the following:

- There is an extremely unique challenge for Dutchess County government as needs for services increase due to the downward turn in the economy. As needs increase (socially/economically), revenue decreases. Some alternative decisions need to be made for 2010.
- Bill acknowledged John MacEnroe and the EDC staff for the good job being done on economic development issues.
- Bill thanked Tom McQuade from AAG and acknowledged their success in Dutchess County.
- Bill acknowledged John DeMarco and the IBM team for their work on SpectraWatt.
- Encouraging Advanced Power to hire for construction jobs in Dutchess County and also encouraging them to be a good Dutchess County corporate citizen.
- Toured MetroKing which manufactures an alternative line of taxis. Dutchess County is looking to help them become successful here.
- Mechtronics of Beacon is consolidating some of its Westchester facilities here in Dutchess County.
- The Rail Trail is a huge success and enhances the quality of life in the County.

Wayne noted that IBM is a large partner in our community and asked John DeMarco to expound. John commented as follows:

- IBM has a deep commitment to social programs in the community.
- IBM is doing very well as a company. They are still in the computer business – 20% hardware and transitioning to growth in services and software. Energy is a very important field.
- John thanked EDC for helping to fill up some vacant space with SpectraWatt.

Special Presentation:

VBMC, An Economic Engine Driving a Quality Train

Dr. Daniel Aronzon, President & CEO, from Vassar Brothers Medical Center gave today's special presentation: Highlights follow:

- We need to be prepared for future challenges.
- How current economic downturn impacts healthcare.
- Reimbursements continue to decline.
- How the community relates to the hospital economically.
- VBMC and Health Quest are strong.
- VBMC's response to the economy.
- What people care about when they come to VBMC.
- Investments in quality.
- Investments in nursing.

- Comparison of VBMC to the best hospitals/healthcare centers
- Measuring quality by reputation.
- Future plans:
 - VBMC for Ambulatory Services

A brief question/answer session followed. Wayne thanked Dr. Aronzon for his presentation.

Closing Statements

Wayne thanked Jim Friend and associates (Fran Soechtig, Monika Wojcik, and Jason Bomba) for hosting today's meeting. He also thanked Bill Steinhaus and John DeMarco for their remarks. Wayne thanked John MacEnroe for his seamless transfer into the job of DCEDC President and the entire EDC staff for their contributions.

Adjournment

The quarterly meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Next Meeting

The **next regular meeting** of the Board of Directors is scheduled for **Thursday, October 29, 2009** at 7:45 a.m. at the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, Route 9G, Hyde Park, NY.