



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

MINUTES
COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Executive Committee
Tuesday, September 22, 2020
One Hudson City Centre, Suite 301
Hudson, NY 12534
Via Conference Call

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) Executive Committee held via conference call due to the COVID-19 pandemic on September 22, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 8:31am by David Fingar, Chair.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Departed
David Fingar	Chair	Present via phone	
James Calvin	Vice-Chair	Present via phone	
John Lee	Treasurer	Present via phone	
Sarah Sterling	Secretary	Present via phone	
Richard Cummings	Committee Member	Present via phone	
Andrew Howard, Esq	CEDC Counsel	Present via phone	
F. Michael Tucker	President/CEO	Present via phone	
Lisa Drahushuk	Administrative Supervisor	Present via phone	
Martha Lane	Business Development Specialist	Present via phone	
Erin McNary	Bookkeeper	Present via phone	
Ed Stiffler	Economic Developer	Present via phone	
Carol Wilber	Marketing Director	Present via phone	9:12am

Minutes:

Mr. Calvin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sterling to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2020 meeting. Carried.

CEDC COVID-19 Response Update:

Mr. Tucker noted work continued on the Columbia Comeback, with meetings every other week. Chairman Murell asked that the program remain running with a switch to a specific topic to be discussed. He noted the Hudson Bond program continued as did the work with the Hudson Tourism Board.

He stated CEDC was currently working with Galvan project which awarded grants to 13 minority owned businesses. He stated CEDC has a fiscal agent agreement with Galvan which will be brought to the Board at the Full Board meeting. He noted CEDC would be paid a fee of \$3,500 for processing the 13 grants and getting the reports back to Galvan. He noted he and Ms. Lane have

been developing the Galvan loan program. He thought a fee of for every loan between \$500 and \$750 plus \$100 per year for servicing the loan, beginning in the second year. He noted the 13 grant recipients would be given a seat to the annual Microbiz class.

Loan Program:

Ms. Lane stated for the Federal fiscal year 22 loans had been closed. She noted the previous year 12 had closed. She noted 3 additional loans were scheduled to close later in the day. She noted that an application for additional funds had been made to the SBA. The request was on hold until 75% of the SBA funds currently with CEDC had been loaned. She stated that target had been hit late the week of the 14th. She noted after the loans scheduled to close were closed, there were no further SBA funds to lend.

Mr. Tucker stated the interest currently in the SBA accounts was available for use. He noted none of those funds have ever been taken from those accounts to use for operational purposes. He noted the excess would be looked at in October as part of the budget process. He stated the interest in loan # 3 was no longer SBA funds. Ms. Lane noted that if additional funds are granted to CEDC, funds will be needed to be deposited into the SBA Loan Loss reserve account as required by the SBA.

CEDC Budget:

Mr. Tucker stated he was asked by Chairman Murell, to submit a budget with no cuts.

He stated Supervisor Beaury has asked that CEDC host a housing information forum via Zoom call, in mid-late October. Mr. Tucker noted only 6 towns had responded to the Housing Survey that had been sent to all the towns in the County.

Mr. Tucker informed the Committee, the city of Hudson put out an RFP to determine how to implement the County Housing study and the housing study done by the City of Hudson. The County had looked at expanding that study to look at housing sites in the county. He noted infrastructure limits the locations. He asked if the Board would be inclined to take some of the funds from the Ginsberg's land sale to allocate along with county funds to pay for a, initiative to pay for an additional housing study.

He noted Broadband was still a topic of discussion with the County. Schools were identifying under-served areas due to remote learning requirements.

Mr. Tucker stated there was a proliferation of large solar projects in the County. The County has asked CEDC to help them determine how they would like to interface with the other taxing jurisdictions on PILOT payments or tax agreements

He asked for feedback from the Executive Committee and dialog at the next Full Board meeting on all the previous topics.

Mr. Calvin asked if CEDC should develop a policy for solar projects which might come asking for financing. Mr. Tucker stated that with the \$50,000 cap on lending, the amount may be too small for such projects. He stated he would work on that if the Committee felt it was important. He stated letters of support would be more likely to be requested. He suggested the County IDA would be more likely to be approached.



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CDBG Projects:

Mr. Tuckers noted that the Office of Community Renewal suggested Hudson Valley Creamery reduce the number of jobs created and thus reduced the size of their grant from \$300,000 to \$200,000. If a second expansion was done they should apply for an additional grant. He noted the Drumlin project had moved the location of their distillery buildings in order to reduce the cost of the project. He noted they had been approved, but the moving of the buildings will require a subsequent environmental review.

CEDC Annual Meeting:

Mr. Tucker stated the meeting was planned for 35 – 40 minutes, with a welcome from Mr. Fingar, a video from Chairman Murell and Mayor Johnson, and a Treasurer's Report from Mr. Lee. The election of Directors would follow. He reviewed several issues brought up about the by-laws noting he felt no action was required.

CEDC Membership:

Mr. Tucker stated a letter has been sent to members for renewal.

Ms. Sterling made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings to enter into Executive Session under NYS Public Officers Law, Article 7, Section 105(f) to discuss a personnel matter. Carried. Executive Session was entered into at 9:15am.

Ms. Sterling made a motion to exit Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Calvin. Carried. Executive Session was exited at 9:24am.

With no further business or public comments, Ms. Sterling made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:25am.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Drafushuk,