

**Muskegon County
Community Development/Strategic Planning Committee
September 19, 2013
4:00 p.m.
Hall of Justice, 4th Floor
990 Terrace Street
Muskegon, MI**

Robert Scolnik, Chair

Benjamin Cross, Vice-Chair

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Scolnik at 4:29 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Benjamin Cross, Marvin Engle, Susie Hughes, Charles Nash, Kenneth Mahoney, Terry Sabo, Robert Scolnik, Rillastine Wilkins

Excused: James Derezinski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Cross, supported by Nash, to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2013, meeting as written. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT (On an agenda item)

None.

PRESENTATION

Chad Lawie, LongerDays.com President

Mr. Chad Lawie, addressed the Board and presented information on his newly formed company, LongerDays.com. He noted it is a virtual staffing agency which supports companies all over the world by providing administrative assistants, receptionist services, website assistance, creative writing and graphic design.

Mr. Lawie began the company consisting of only himself in 2010. In 2011, he hired his first full time employee and moved into a new office. By year end, he had 10 employees and a 330 percent increase in sales. In 2012, Mr. Lawie developed a formal business plan, relocated to the MAREC building, ended the year with 15 employees and an

increase in sales of 133 percent. The company now employs 25 employees. Mr. Lawie's plans for 2014 include initiating a marketing plan for the first time and to continue to grow, adapt and repeat for future years.

Mr. Lawie was thanked for his informative presentation and Commissioners noted his positivity, excitement and energy.

Howard Hardesty, West Michigan Growth Chair

Mr. Hardesty addressed the Board and discussed the need for economic development in Muskegon County. He discussed the West Michigan Growth organization and noted it is an organization that is a 501c3 non-profit and is largely comprised of local professionals working to bring development to West Michigan. Mr. Hardesty requested the County analyze and consider contracting for economic development for Muskegon County.

Mr. Mark Fazakerly, Eagle Alloy, addressed the Board in support of the West Michigan Growth organization.

Mr. Rob Gustafson, Hooker DeJong, and Mr. Terry Winter, also addressed the Board in support of the organization.

Mr. Hardesty was thanked for his presentation and was advised the Board would take his request under advisement. Commissioner Scolnik noted he will follow-up with Mr. Hardesty within the next two weeks.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no items submitted for consideration.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bob Lukens, Community Development Director, noted the Bass Masters Elite Series Championship is well underway with set up to begin on Monday, September 23rd. He noted the family friendly event will begin on Friday, September 27th and will go through Sunday, September 29th with the live weigh-in on Sunday at noon at Heritage Landing.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

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PUBLIC COMMENT (On a new topic)

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Community Development/Strategic Planning Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.