

**Lansing Economic Development Corporation
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 11, 2019 - 8:30 AM
LEAP Office- Executive Boardroom
100 S Washington Avenue, Suite #201
Lansing, MI 48910**

Members Present: Andrea Ragan, Calvin Jones, Shelley Boyd, Fred Schaible,
Mayor Andy Schor, Thomas Donaldson
Members Absent: Blake Johnson, James Butler III, Kimberly Coleman
Temp Members Present: Julian Darden, Temporary Loan Committee Member
Staff Present: Karl Dorshimer, Marchelle Smith, Kris Klein,
Anum Mughal
Guests: Pablo Maldonado, Pablo's Mexican Restaurant
Brian McGrain, City of Lansing
Rhonda Jones, Lansing Board of Water & Light (LBWL)
Public Present: None
Recorded by: Tedi R. Parsons, LEAP

Call to Order

Chair Ragan welcomed everyone and called the LEDC Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:54 a.m.

Approval of LEDC Board Meeting Minutes – Friday, December 7, 2018

MOTION: Schaible moved to approve the LEDC meeting minutes from the Friday, December 7, 2018 LEDC Board of Director's meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Boyd.

YEAS: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Project Plan Recommendation-Pablo's Mexican Restaurant

Klein provided a brief history of the Project Plan for City of Lansing project, Pablo's Restaurant, to be located in REO Town. He introduced Pablo Maldonado, Owner, Pablo's Mexican Restaurant. The LEDC Board of Directors will be approving the Project Plan at today's meeting and will approve the final loan at the March 2019 meeting. Maldonado provided a history of why he is opening the new restaurant in REO Town. Schaible inquired if there is a required deadline for the official open date. Dorshimer noted that this will be indicated in the Development Agreement. Mayor Schor noted that he supports this loan application and project plan and it has been forwarded to Lansing City Council. Discussion ensued over the liquor license process.

Darden noted that he is excited for this project and fully supports this and believes it will be a much needed addition to the REO Town area.

MOTION: Jones moved to approve the Pablo's Mexican Project Plan as presented. Motion seconded by Butler. Motion Carries.

YEAS: Eight (8)

ABSTAIN: One (1) Donaldson

NAYS: Zero (0)

Accelerating the Runway (Presentation)

Dorshimer reintroduced Joe Carr, LEAP, New Economy Division, who provided a brief history of The Runway and the STITCHed consulting agreement. He introduced Andrea and Samantha Bartlett, STITCHed advising they were the consultants hired to run and oversee the new programming for Runway Lansing. The following was noted during the presentation:

- Overview of the STITCHed Consulting Agreement with the LEDC
- Overview of STITCHed's background and history of their time at The Runway
- Overview of the Road to Retail Program – 12-week course offered in Summer of 2016, which had 4 fashion designers take part in
- Overview of the new programming offered through the *Accelerating The Runway* program
- Overview of supporting partners (Foster & Swift, Reo Town Marketplace, Polka Dots, Auto-Owners, Vintage Junkies, and Retail Therapy)
- Announcement of 2018 and 2019 upcoming events and goals for next-year

Chair Ragan inquired about how STITCHed looks at diversity and how they select who they work with. Samantha noted that they are handling this as needed based on the client's portfolios and current needs. Mayor Schor suggested STITCHed look at the City's Ebay Retail Revival Program and consider working in other areas of Lansing (Stadium District, SW Lansing, etc.) to expand their services and help build capacity in other areas of the City. Coleman inquired about the connection between the original Runway program and the new Accelerating the Runway. Carr advised that they felt this was a natural evolution from taking the classes offered at The Runway and Lansing Community College (LCC).

City of Lansing Programs (Presentation)

Anum Mughal, LEAP, provided a presentation and update on the following:

City of Lansing Façade Grant Program: Total budget: \$150,000, w/30 leads, 19 prospects, 15 qualified applicants, 5 currently underway and 2 completed.

Opportunity Zones: Overview of the new program offered in the City of Lansing, which has designated seven (7) Opportunity Zones.

Corridor Improvement Authorities: MACIA: recently appointed four new board members, bylaws are being reviewed by the City attorney's office, the first Annual Meeting of is scheduled for January 25, 2019. SACIA: appointed three new board members, bylaws are being reviewed by the City attorney's office, the first Annual Meeting of is scheduled for January 31, 2019

Mayor Schor noted that Dorshimer, Mughal, and Klein are doing a great job on behalf of the City of Lansing.

Project Updates

Dorshimer provided the following project updates:

2018 LEDC Annual Report: A handout was provided to the LEDC Board with today's packets. He provided an overview of the report.

Red Cedar Renaissance: Believes this large-scale project is close to being ready to begin. The developers are working on a feasible Brownfield Plan and he is hoping to bring this plan to the LBRA board very soon.

2019 LEDC Board of Directors Election – January 2019

Chair Ragan advised that it was time once again for the Annual Election of Officers. She asked Boyd (Nominating Committee Chair) to provide a brief update on the election process. Boyd advised that she worked closely with Parsons, who reached-out to the LEDC Board members regarding the open positions on the board. Boyd requested Parsons hand-out the 2019 Election Ballots. The ballots were provided to all LEDC Board Members. Parsons noted the following 2019 election results:

- Chair: Calvin Jones
- Vice-Chair: Thomas Donaldson
- Treasurer: Blake 'Christopher' Johnson
- Secretary: Kimberly Coleman

Parsons advised that the newly elected Chair will begin his duties on Friday, February 1, 2019 at the next LEDC Board of Directors meeting.

Open Forum for LEDC Board of Directors

Chair Ragan opened the floor to the LEDC Board Members, who provided the following announcements/updates:

None were presented.

Other Business & Public Comment

None was provided.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Ragan declared the LEDC meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.



Karl Dorshimer, Director of Economic Development
Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP)