

*Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Economic Development Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.*

DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Economic Development Committee Minutes  
April 5, 2016**

The DeKalb County Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 @ 7:00p.m. in the DeKalb County Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairman Brown called the meeting to order. Members present were Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Pietrowski, Jr., and Mr. Whelan. Mr. Faivre was absent. Others present were Mr. Gary Hanson, Kay Shelton and Paul Borek.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

It was moved by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Porterfield, and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from March 1, 2016.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Ms. Leifheit, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments. Chairman Brown asked that in the future that all agendas should include public comments and member comments.

**LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION – MS. KAY SHELTON**

Ms. Kay Shelton, President of the Lincoln Highway Association approached the committee this evening to inform them about her Association. She said that there is an event tomorrow evening at the Sycamore Library at 6:00p.m. There will be a singer named CiCi Otto from Portland, Oregon who will give a presentation in song regarding Lincoln Highway and she will do a book signing also.

Ms. Shelton said that the Lincoln Highway Association is a 501c3 non-profit with over 1,000 members from over 7 different countries. Their headquarters is in Franklin Grove, Illinois. The most exotic place where people have come to visit Franklin Grove is from Mongolia, and it has been numerous times. The headquarters is in a dry goods store built by Henry Issac Lincoln, a distant cousin of Abraham Lincoln, in 1860.

The organization with ties to the original Lincoln Highway Association, which formed on July 1, 1913, with grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the original members as current members.

There is an interactive map on their website showing nearly 6,000 mile of roads complete (including re-alignments and feeder routes).

Mr. Shelton said that her organization is trying to get the Lincoln Highway to be recognized as a National Monument to Abraham Lincoln. When the road was built the original purpose was to be a memorial to Abraham Lincoln but it lacked official recognition. You can now go online at [www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org](http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org) and sign the petition to help gain the official recognition, Mr. Shelton said. Other states are also working on obtaining byway recognition.

Along the highway in Lee County tourism has increased with the bison at Nachusa Grasslands and the new bed & breakfast that has opened in Franklin Grove. The 3,500-acre Nachusa Grasslands preserve consists of large remnant prairie, woodlands, and wetlands being reconnected through habitat restoration to create one of the largest and most biologically diverse grasslands in Illinois, which is also located in Franklin Grove.

Finally, there will be a multi-media walking tour of DeKalb with a Lincoln Highway theme. People will be able to download the text and listen to it as they do on a walking tour of the City of DeKalb.

Chairman Brown and the committee thanked Ms. Shelton for her very informative presentation.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT – MR. PAUL BOREK**

Mr. Paul Borek, Executive Director of the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation gave his report to the committee. Mr. Borek said that the 3M project construction is going strong and the roof is being built on the structure now. The project should be finished by August 2016. Target is working with Kishwaukee College to help recruit 550 people that the Target Distribution Center needs to hire. DeKalb Forge is expanding their building too in DeKalb. Cole Pallet is acquiring the old Del Monte Building. They are a custom pallet manufacturer that attracts a specific client. Ideal Industries has finished their new building in Sycamore. Tate and Lyle in Sycamore have expanded their space by 14,000 square feet.

Mr. Borek then spoke about the Enterprise Zone. His office has finished the applications and sales tax extension through the State of Illinois. He said that there will be workshops for people to take to familiarize themselves with the rules and application process for the Enterprise Zone on April 26, 2016. It will consist of two sessions: 1.) for the Municipal Officials (County included) Training Workshop and 2.) a Prospect Forum. After the workshop his office will concentrate on marketing the Enterprise Zone. He said there have been a lot of prospect inquiries numbering 21 for industrial prospects and 22 expansion prospects. Out of the 22 expansion projects, 12 are industrial projects and 10 are commercial projects. The Enterprise Zone has been very helpful in attracting these prospects.

He said that some of the business education and networking events will be the following: The Enterprise Zone Workshops on 4/26/16, the Business Round Table will be held at the DeKalb Taylor Municipal Airport for May 2016, and the Technology Outlook Luncheon will be held in June 2016.

Chairman Brown and the committee thanked Mr. Borek for his report.

## **BUSINESS INCUBATOR STATUS**

### **Advisory Board Recommendations**

The committee discussed the size of the Advisory Board. They said that they would like it to be around 9 people. They also discussed having alternate members too. They would like to have the following representatives sit on the board: a banker, a lawyer, small business administration, technology, non-profit, marketing, finance/accounting/CPA, business owner, and Mary Supple as the Economic Development Coordinator. They also discussed possibly inviting LaCretia Konan from Illinois WorkNet. So the core group would number 9 members and then alternates would also be needed along with people that have experience in a specific profession.

Ms. Polanco recommended inviting Accion-Chicago to the Incubator too.

Ms. Supple then passed out the Press Release that she wanted the committee to approve to send out that week. There were a couple of suggestions to the Press Release, like "furnished offices equipped with Fiber Optics." They would like to have the first round of applications have a deadline of May 20, 2016. They also suggested stating the Incubator would open no later than July 1, 2016.

### **Economic Development Coordinator**

The committee reviewed Ms. Supple's change in title to DeKalb County Economic Development Coordinator and her new job responsibilities. Ms. Supple informed the committee about some of the projects that she has been working on over the past year.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION: SALE OF PROPERTY**

It was moved by Mr. Pietrowski, Jr., seconded by Ms. Polanco, and it was carried unanimously with a roll call vote to move into closed session to discuss the sale of property.

It was moved by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Porterfield, and it was carried unanimously with a roll call vote to return to open session. No action was taken.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Ms. Leifheit, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Chairman Robert Brown

  
Mary Supple, Recording Secretary