

MINUTES

MEETING: **GO Topeka Board of Directors**

PLACE: Chamber Board Room

TIME: 7:30 a.m.

DATE: January 7, 2005

Present: Mark Wittenburg, John Moenius, Rick Jackson, Duane Fager, Carl Koupal, Maynard Oliverius, Lucky DeFries, Alonzo Harrison, Vince Frye, Ed Carmona, Connie Goodnow, Kris Kitchen, Matt Sabatini, Ken Schmanke, Neil Fisher, Council Member Lisa Stubbs, Mayor James McClinton, Dr. Jerry Farley, John Myers, David Kerr, Andy Jetter

Mark Wittenburg called the meeting to order. Connie Goodnow moved, Duane Fager seconding, that the minutes of the December 2, 2004 be approved. The motion carried.

Rick Jackson presented financials for the period. Expenses are under budget and monies received from private dollars have been placed in the Chamber foundation. Ed Carmona moved, Neil Fisher seconding, that the financials be approved. The motion carried.

Doug Kinsinger introduced Mel Chapman of Cook, Flatt & Strobel, and refreshment sponsors of the meeting. CFS are under contract to develop the master plan for the commerce park and the break in access study on 49th Street.

Mel Chapman discussed the break in access study and that the master plan recommended a diamond interchange at 49th Street and Highway 75. Information has been gathered and shared with KDOT. CFS hopes to have the study completed in January and turned in to KDOT.

Mark Wittenburg thanked John Moenius, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and the committee for their efforts in obtaining officers and board members. John Moenius discussed the number of board members allowed and the attempt to stagger terms to balance out the years. A number of those going off the board this year expressed an interest in continuing on the board. Those recommended for continuing with a three year term are: Alonzo Harrison, Ben Blair, Mike Engler, Duane Fager and Neil Fisher. New members recommended for a three year term are Steve John, SCCA; Bob Schuster, Kennedy & Coe; and Kathleen R. Urbom, Urbom Law Offices. Moenius recommended two people be added for a one year term to end in February 2006: Mike Wilson, Architect One; and Dan Woodard, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. Dr. Farley moved, Andy Jetter seconding, that the approval of those named for a three year term and those named for a one year term be approved. The motion carried.

John Moenius presented a proposed slate of officers: Carl Koupal, Chairman; Mark Wittenburg, Immediate Past Chairman; Andy Jetter, Vice Chairman, Rick Jackson, Treasurer; and Linda Rameriz Gonzalez, Secretary. Dr. Jerry Farley, Ed Carmona seconding, moved that the slate of officers be approved as proposed.

John Myers, City of Topeka, explained the Advantage Program and how the program is to be implemented and funded. The program is intended to attract and retain people in the Topeka workforce and intended to be a collaborative effort and endowed program.

Doug Kinsinger advised that the announcement from Hill's was a culmination of months of work. There will be a \$30 million expansion at the research and development center and an \$11 to \$12 million investment in the headquarters downtown. The county commission unanimously supported a tax break for this investment.

Doug Kinsinger discussed the announcement by the SCCA on their being awarded the SCCA National Runoff Races coming to the community in September 2006. This race will have a significant economic impact on the community.