

MINUTES

MEETING: GO Topeka Board of Directors

PLACE: October 6, 2006

TIME: 7:30 a.m.

DATE: Chamber Board Room

Present: Carl Koupal, Andy Jetter, Rick Jackson, Mark Wittenburg, John Moenius, Lucky DeFries, Jim Haines, Terry Neher, Maynard Oliverius, Mike Wilson, Dan Woodard, Connie Goodnow, Kris Kitchen, Matt Sabatini, Alonzo Harrison, Bob Schuster, Kathleen Urbom, Commissioner Vic Miller, Norton Bonaparte

Guest: Doris Williams

Carl Koupal welcomed everyone to the meeting. Connie Goodnow moved, Andy Jetter seconding, that the minutes of the September 8, 2006 meeting be approved. The motion carried.

Rick Jackson presented financials statements for the period indicating a good financial position. He further discussed incentive offerings and \$35,000 to support the GO Connection Loan Fund. Mark Wittenburg moved, Andy Jetter seconding, that the financial statements be approved. The motion carried.

Christy Caldwell presented recommendations for federal projects and recapped prior funding requests. Appropriation funding from Congress from 2002 to 2005 benefiting the community has been \$27.9 million. Doug Kinsinger explained a locomotive pilot project on a hydrogen locomotive that Senator Brownback has been working on. Caldwell suggested that the JEDO board begin the process for requesting funds so that reports can be drafted for the delegation.

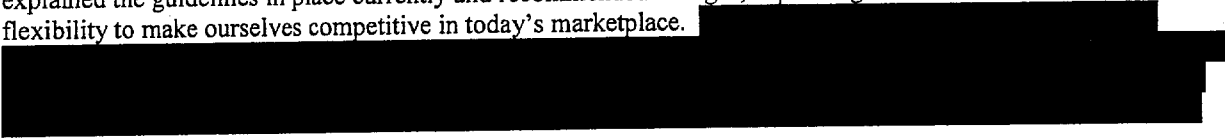
Christy Caldwell reported that 36 individuals from the business community, as well as city and county officials took part in the intercity visit to Little Rock. The group heard from community leaders and elected officials on how they developed their riverfront, their marketing efforts, and their economic development policies. Housing has been added in downtown and they would eventually like to become a 24 hour community.

Carl Koupal discussed the possibility of retaining a consulting firm for reviewing the strategic plan and target industries. The plan was formulated five years ago and the market has changed. A committee met and reviewed proposals from Competitive Strategies Group, The Wadley-Donovan Group, and Market Street Services. The committee selected the Competitive Strategies Group to do a thorough review of the strategic plan and the five industry targets. The fees are \$120,000 with reimbursable expenses of \$10,000. Alonzo Harrison pointed out that the community as a whole should be made aware of the review and be all inclusive. Andy Jetter moved, Bob Schuster seconding, that Competitive Strategies Group be engaged to review the strategic plan and targeted industries, and that this be accomplished without town hall meetings. The motion carried.

Carl Koupal advised that an agenda item sent out in the tentative agenda regarding Brown v. Board was pulled from the agenda as the issue had not been reviewed by the DBE Council.

Kathy Moellenberndt reported that staff is working hard on a number of prospect requests including Ag Pro, a manufacturing facility with over \$100 million in capital investment; Project Crystal, a manufacturing facility with a capital investment of over \$100 million, as well as others. She further advised that staff continues to work with Blue Cross Blue Shield on their possible expansion. Staff has also answered requests for information on call centers.

Kathy Moellenberndt advised that the Incentive Guidelines for use of the sales tax monies need to be updated. She explained the guidelines in place currently and recommended changes, explaining the rationale and the need for flexibility to make ourselves competitive in today's marketplace.



Doug Kinsinger discussed an ordinance from the City Council requiring that property outside the city that requires water service be annexed before service can be extended. The board discussed water rates inside the city vs. outside the city. After considerable discussion it was suggested that the Chamber appear and explain their concerns and the potential impact this might have on development. It was further suggested that the ordinance be referred to committee.

Doug Kinsinger reminded the board of future meeting, including the joint Chamber/GO Topeka board retreat, the Deal Makers' Expo on November 8th in conjunction with the city and US Bank. He encouraged all investors and government entities to attend. Kinsinger urged board members to attend the SCCA runoffs to see the activities and attend the reception on October 9th.

Carl Koupal thanked Creative Business Solutions for sponsoring the meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Addendum: In the Federal Project Request, the BNSF hydrogen locomotive pilot project funding has been approved in the Defense Appropriation bill; it received the President's signature. The final amount that was agreed upon and has been approved is \$1.95 million.