

**WASHTENAW COUNTY**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**August 5, 2016 Meeting Minutes**  
**8:00-10:00 am**  
**Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center**  
**4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor**

**Committee Members In Attendance:** Conan Smith, Todd Clark, Michael Henry, Matt Sandstrom, Marie Klopf, Calvin Evans, Eric Helber, Rose Bellanca, Leslie Ledbetter, and Paul Krutko Jr.

**Committee Members Absent:** Lynne Friman, Brenda Stumbo, Amanda Edmonds, Luke Bonner, Sean Duval, Ruth Ann Jamnick, and Alicia Ping

**Ex Officio Members in Attendance:** Ryan Buck and Gregory Dill

**Ex Officio Members Absent:** Jerry Clayton, Roy Townsend Robert Tetens, Felicia Brabec, Doug Fuller, and Evan Pratt

**Staff & Members of the Public:** Deb Polich, Mary Kerr, Russ Olwell, Omari Rush, Christina Hamilton, Austin Wertheimer, Melissa Milton-Pung, Anthony VanDerworp, and Andrea Plevak

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- At 8:15, while waiting for quorum, Conan Smith suggested that agenda item 5 , Housing Overview, be moved up for presentation while waiting for quorum to be reached.
- It was agreed upon by general acclimation that the Housing Overview be started.

**2. Housing Overview**

- Teresa Gillotti, Interim Housing Manager at the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED), provided an overview of affordable housing. Her presentation was based on the Housing Affordability and Economic Equity Analysis conducted by OCED in 2015. Topics covered included:
  - A brief overview of the 2015 Housing Analysis and its findings
  - Current Status quo in Ann Arbor and Pittsfield township compared to Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township
  - Housing units needed to rebalance the region
  - Goals and principles for participating municipalities
    - Create new units <60% AMI in Ann arbor and Pittsfield
    - Increase college educated households in Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti township
  - Washtenaw County's role in Equity and Access, as well as Workforce and Affordable Housing:
    - Housing & Equity Leadership Team
    - Opportunity Washtenaw
    - Equity Summit
  - All-jurisdictions work plan
  - Updates on progress by jurisdiction

Quorum was achieved at approximately 8:30am.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

- Conan Smith requested a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13 EDCC meeting.
- **Motions**
  - Marie Klopf motioned
  - Leslie Ledbetter seconded
  - Unanimously supported

### 4. Mini Grant Applications

The RFP Review Committee recommended that two applicants from the RFP process be considered as mini-grants instead of being considered for an RFP award. This recommendation was based on the requested allocation size of the application (\$10,000 or less qualifies as a mini-grant).

#### **UofM Penny Stamps Series in Ypsilanti**

- \$10,000 requested to support initial three event speaker series in Ypsilanti, as proposed in the attached application
  - Tony VanDerworp provided a brief overview and introduced Chrisstina Hamilton, Director of the Penny Stamps Series, to answer any questions
  - Chrisstina Hamilton addressed the following points:
    - Provided a budget for the current standing series
    - Example of print calendar for current series
    - How the growth of the series has occurred
    - Hopes and expectations to continue having events in Ypsilanti
    - How partnerships with community venues work
- **Motion:** approved \$10,000
  - Michael Henry motioned to support
  - Todd Clark seconded
  - Unanimously supported

#### **EMU Foundation “Public Policy and Action Framework for Eastern County Schools”**

- \$10,000 requested to fund an assessment of education in eastern Washtenaw County and public policy and investment framework, as proposed in the attached application
  - Tony VanDerworp provided an brief overview and introduced Russ Olwell, Director of the Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Community at Eastern Michigan University
- **Motion:** approved \$10,000
  - Marie Klopf motioned in support
  - Michael Henry Seconded
  - Unanimously approved

#### Additional Mini-grant Applications

##### **Ann Arbor Art Center “Pop-X”**

- \$10,000 in support of the Ann Arbor “Pop-X Festival” application, including an economic impact data analysis.
  - Marie Klopf recused herself from discussion and the vote as she is the President/CEO of the Ann Arbor Art Center
  - Tony VanDerworp provided an overview of the application and introduced Omari Rush the Director of Community Engagement to answer questions

- Omari Rush addressed the following:
  - Plan to expand Pop-X festival to Ypsilanti and other cities in the county
  - Title change of the art themed beer and “passport” initiative to pop-off
- **Motion:** approved \$10,000
  - Michael Henry Moved to support
  - Matt Sandstrom Seconded
  - Unanimously approved, with one abstention (Marie Klopff)

**Riverside Art Center “First Fridays” application -**

- This application was tabled as the applicant could not attend the August meeting. The EDCC will revisit this application at a future date, to allow the applicant to answer questions.

**5. RFP Discussion and Recommendations**

The RFP Review Subcommittee met on July 13th. The committee included Conan Smith EDCC Chair, Todd Clark representing Big Business, Leslie Ledbetter representing the Historic District Commission, Brenda Stumbo representing WCCVB Board, Michael Henry representing Arts or Creative Sector, and Lynne Friman representing Tourist Based Business. The Subcommittee’s recommendations are included in the attached RFP summary table.

The EDCC received 11 proposals, with a total of \$1,206,829 in requested allocations.

The RFP Review Subcommittee recommended \$964,752 in funding for 5 of the 11 applicants.

- Paul Krutko recused himself of voting on this matter as he is the president/CEO of Ann Arbor Spark.
- As time was of concern, Conan Smith requested a motion to move in support of the subcommittee recommendation and then any amendments to funding could be made and discussed
- Leslie Ledbetter suggested that the RFP recommendations be reviewed in the order of the greatest monetary value
- **Motion:**
  - Mike Henry moved to support the Subcommittee recommendations
  - Todd Clark seconded
- **Recommended for Funding:**
  - **Ann Arbor SPARK, \$635,000 recommended/\$635,000 proposed**
    - This allocation funds SPARK’s core work in business attraction and retention for Washtenaw County.
    - Funding will allow the County's investment to continue in the business incubator at SPARK East and support new program work for business planning around the creation of the American Center for Mobility and continue the established incentive package for business growth and location on the east side. It will also fund a new initiative to support economic development specifically in Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township. Details on expected deliverables are currently under discussion with County staff.
    - Will also support Talent services and Virtual Business Advisor.
  - **Michigan State Extension, \$166,752 recommended/\$166,752 proposed**
    - Requested for base MOA funding; additional community food system work; and a Local Food System Coordinator previously “broker/aggregator program”
    - This project fits exactly within the intent of Act 88 and is highly successful

- **Growing Hope, \$88,000 recommended/\$138,000 proposed**
  - This allocation supports Washtenaw farmers markets promotion, food destination agri-tourism, food entrepreneur business development, local food outlet expansion and local food in Ypsilanti Community Schools
  - A \$40,000 ask for micro- incubation kitchen, aggregation, and distribution was not recommended to be funded due to case studies indicating that operational subsidies will always be needed.
  - The food entrepreneur business development project was recommended to be funded at a reduced amount to match that of last year's funding at \$25,000.
  
- **EMU Foundation, up to \$60,000/\$60,000 proposed**
  - Allocation is in support of LiveYpsi home buyer program.
  - The Program provides a forgivable loan of \$5,000 for home purchases in more stable neighborhoods and \$10,000 for home purchase in distressed neighborhoods. County funding is only used for staff and faculty locating from another area into the County. Outcomes include increasing immigration, increasing sales of local products and services, and revitalizing and maintaining housing stock. Requested funding will provide for incentives to purchase up to 18 homes in the next 2 years.
  - This program has been a successful economic program. Recommendation is that the program continue at a 50/50 match level. Funding up to the full amount will require EMU to add an additional \$30,000 to the program.
  
- **Washtenaw County Farm Council \$15,000/\$15,000 proposed**
  - Allocation is in support of the 4-H youth show
  - This project fits exactly within the intent of Act 88 and is highly successful.
  
- Each recommended funding allocation was discussed by the Committee.
- No alterations were made to the subcommittee recommendations.
- A general discussion point was made that the committee would like the funding requirements language be put in front of them to be clear on the alignment of allowable use of funds and decision-making framework.
- Michael Henry suggested that he offer an interim motion to approve funding of the five applications already reviewed to insure time constraints were met and to guard against a loss of quorum in the event that the meeting ran too long.
- Conan Smith agreed with the suggestion, and called for a motion.
- **Motion: the above \$964,752 in total funding to be awarded to the five agreed upon applicants**
  - Mike Henry moved to support funding for the first five applications reviewed
  - Marie Klopf seconded
  - Unanimously supported, with one abstention (Paul Krutko)
  
- **Remaining Funding recommendations/ Not recommended for funding**
  - **Detroit Region Aerotropolis , \$0/ \$50,000 proposed**

- Staff and Subcommittee said the application was incomplete and did not provide enough information.
- Proposed work would also be duplicative to other initiatives underway. Region 9 Prosperity Initiative is doing a similar project with the Center for Automotive Research.
- **Arts Alliance, \$0/ \$100,000 proposed**
  - The request was for funding current agency operation. Act 88 funding is not intended for operational costs.
  - It was noted that the applicant made a good case for arts and creative sector as a major economic driver and a presentation/discussion on how the County can support/fund economic activates would be appropriate for the EDCC to place on a future agenda.
  - The applicant is currently funded to research creative cooperative models. This is the type of project that should be funded through Act 88. The Committee encourages the applicant to continue to develop projects that increase jobs in the creative sector, particularly in eastern Washtenaw County.
- **Social Enterprise Alliance/Reconsider, \$0/\$66,077proposed**
  - Previous funding has provided a good framework for local investment but there needs be a “buildable” strategy for increasing local investment. The proposal lacked the desired next steps for framework implementation.
- **Three applicants were contacted by staff to reapply as a mini-grant as the request was for \$10,000, these included:**
  - Ann Arbor Art Center- was approved as a mini-grant during this meeting
  - MI Folk School
  - Riverside Art Center
- Conan Smith called a conclusion to discussion on the motion put forth to approve the RFP Subcommittee’s 2017 RFP funding recommendations.
- Unanimously supported, with one abstention (Paul Krutko)

## 6. Discussion, Comments, Questions

- **Anthony VanDerworp directed the EDCC to note the additional items in this month’s packet**
  - Mini-grant projects to date information
  - Live Ypsi informational flyer
  - Historical Washtenaw Area Attraction Brochure

## 7. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am, through general acclimation.
- The Next regularly scheduled EDCC meeting will take place on **Friday, September 2, 2016, 8:00am to 10:00am, in the Michigan Room of the Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center, located at 4135 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan.**