

WASHTENAW COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
EQUITY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2016

8:00-10:00 am

Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center
4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor

In Attendance: Conan Smith, Rose Bellanca, Luke Bonner, Todd Clark, Calvin Evans, Lynne Friman, Michael Henry, Eric Helber, Marie Klopf, Leslie Ledbetter, Matt Sandstrom, Brenda Stumbo, Roy Townsend, Evan Pratt, Gregory Dill, Donna Dolman (Representing Paul Krutko, Jr.), Amanda Edmonds , and Sean Duval

Absent: Paul Krutko Jr., Jerry Clayton, Ryan Buck, Robert Tetens, Ruth Ann Jamnick, Alicia Ping, Felicia Brabec, and Doug Fuller

Staff & Members of the Public: Keta Cowan, Mary Kerr, Tyler Weston, Austin Wertheimer, Anthony VanDerworp, Melissa Milton-Pung, Derrick Jackson and Brett Lenart

1. Welcome, Meeting Purpose and Invited Guests

- Conan Smith welcomed our three invited guests, Keta Cowan, Director of Synod Community Services; Derrick Jackson, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Director of Community Engagement; and Sean Duval, Chair of the Southeast Michigan Workforce Development Board.
- Smith also informed the committee that Sean Duval has been appointed to the EDCC representing the Washtenaw County CVB Board.
- Smith stated that the purpose of this meeting is to gain a better understanding of equity in economic development in Washtenaw County to better provide recommendations to the BOC for the November Joint working session.
- Anthony VanDerworp presented the meeting flow and introduced an activity that will take place throughout the meeting. He stated that we will be stopping to get a response from the EDCC members after each of four data sets has been presented.

2. January Meeting Minutes Approval

- Motions
 - Brenda Stumbo motioned to approve
 - Luke Bonner seconded
 - Unanimous approval
 - Sean Duval and Amanda Edmonds abstained, having not yet taken their oaths of office for this body

3. Equity in Economic Development Presentation & Discussion

- Anthony VanDerworp provided an overview of “Traditional” economic indicators, including:
 - unemployment rate
 - job loss and growth
 - median household income
 - % of population ≤ 25 that have received a bachelor’s degree or more
 - Etc...
- VanDerworp asked the EDCC members and the three invited guests to provide their feedback
- The following sentiments were voiced:
 - In general all felt that based on this data the county appears to be doing well economically
 - Some pointed out that these metrics do not paint the whole picture
- Anthony VanDerworp provided an overview of the united Way ALICE (Asset limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report Indicators. This included:
 - Survival and Stability budgets as defined by the ALICE report
 - Nearly 40% of Washtenaw county residents are living at or below the survival budget line, classified as “struggling” households
 - The impacts ALICE households have on the county in terms of quality of life and increased dependence on public services
 - Statewide county rankings in ALICE report
- VanDerworp asks the EDCC members and the three invited guest to provide their feedback
- The Following sentiments were voiced:
 - Many felt that even though this did not look as positive as the traditional indicators Washtenaw County has the ability to help close the gap displayed
- Brett Lenart provided an overview of the Washtenaw County Opportunity Index, an interactive map aggregating economic and quality of life data for Washtenaw County, including:
 - Educational attainment
 - Housing and transit index
 - Income

(All of this data was compared at the census tract level for a census tract in northeast Ann Arbor and south Ypsilanti)

- VanDerworp asked the EDCC members and the three invited guest to provide their feedback
- The following sentiments were voiced:
 - Some EDCC members felt that the data provided does a good job depicting the disparities that many people know about anecdotally in a data driven way
 - Some EDCC members noted that the EDCC will be able to help influence policy changes that can address these disparities
- Anthony VanDerworp provided an overview of Economic Segregation from the report “*Segregated City*” conducted by Richard Florida and Charlotta Mellander. This included:
 - Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) rankings for segregation by occupation

- MSA rankings for segregation by income
- MSA rankings for segregation by educational attainment
- Overall economic segregation rankings based on the three other criteria
- VanDerworp asked the EDCC members and the three invited guest to provide their feedback
- The Following sentiments were voiced:
 - Information is not new – it is sad that we have not taken action yet
 - It would be helpful to see some of the largest employers of the least segregated MSA listed in the Report
 - It would be helpful to see recommendations on cities with lower MSA divisions, and best practices from cities which are doing better than our region on this particular issue

4. Committee Charter Discussion and Approval

- Mike Henry inquired about having a non-government representative as co-chair of the committee.
 - After a brief discussion it was decided to leave it as stated in the charter until the EDCC is well established and the matter may be revisited next year
- Matt Sandstorm inquired about the EDCC expanding funding for the county through outside resources
 - After a brief discussion it was decided to add that the EDCC can examine and facilitate additional economic investments and resources for the county under the section of other charges
- Motions
 - Rose Bellanca motioned to approve with the change agreed upon
 - Marie Klopf seconded
 - Unanimously supported

5. Discussion, Questions, Comments

- Conan Smith asked the three invited guest to provide comments about the presentation and have all present voice their observations preceding the invited guest's comments.
- The following sentiments were expressed:
 - Derrick Jackson spoke to recidivism and how it is indicative of some of the data provided.
 - Keta Cowen noted it was good that the EDCC was having this discussion and that even more can be done to discuss other types of segregation.
 - Sean Duval talked about access and awareness to programs and initiatives that are available to help combat this inequity.
 - Some EDCC members what to know of municipalities that have successful addressed economic inequity.
 - EDCC members were interested in what the EDCC actually has the power to influence.
 - EDCC members are interested in what types of investments the county has already made (this topic will be covered extensively in future meetings).
 - Discussion on what might be the most effective way to move the needle
 - Affordable housing and K-12 education were the two most cited issues.
 - Tyler Weston spoke about the Ypsilanti Promise initiative.

6. Per Diem Instructions

- EDCC members were informed of their eligibility to receive a per diem for attending meetings
- Per Diem forms are available upon request

7. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 10:00am, through general acclimation.
- The next regularly scheduled EDCC meeting will take place on **Friday, March 4, 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.**

Note:

All attachments can be found on the county website <http://www.ewashtenaw.org/edcc>

Attachments

Minutes

Committee Charter

County-wide Job Loss Diagram (Requested by Alicia Ping)

Per Diem Instructions (W-9, Electronic Payment Request form)