

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
OF WAYNE COUNTY, INDIANA  
Annual Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 1, 2017**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elzemeyer, Frame, Jackson, Leisure, Parker, Russell, Salazar, Upchurch, Warner, Witte, Yaeger

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Barrett

**STAFF PRESENT:** Shaffer, Doty, Henry, Geres

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Allen, Michael	Gutzwiller, Harold	Oler, Ron	Sowers, George
Beeson, Chris	Hamm, Dick	Ontko, Ray	Templin, Randy
Bergan, Kris	Harris, William	Ortiz, Jorge	Terrill, Todd
Bergen, Belinda	Jacob, Leslie	Pearson, Pam	Thomas, Mary Jo
Blakely, Jeff	Johnson, Sherrilyn	Plasterer, Jeff	Thurlow, Kim
Brattain, Amy	Kenworthy, Mindy	Poinsett, Kimberly	Troutwine, Jason
Butters, Mary Anne	Kleer, Garry	Quinn, Phil	Ulm, Keith
Carter, Jeff	Langley, Christy	Ray, Valerie	Walker, Mary
Cochran, Denny	LaVeer, Rebecca	Reynolds, Chuck	Weaver, Bob
Comiskey, Daniel	Lim, Choo	Rodden, Ed	Weddle, Colleen
Cross, Ron	Marsh, Eric	Rodgers, Dave	Weinert, Robin
Current, Lori	Matney, Melissa	Saunders, Gary	Welch, Elijah
Dabney, Dyron	Maxeiner, Julie	Schultz, Austin	Wutzl, Brant
D'Amico, Phil	Mitchell, Sarah	Shuey, Mickey	
Dunnaway, Dan	Murray, Rebecca	Snow, Dave	
Green, Nancy	Napier, Tammy	Soukup, Mark	

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Jeff Jackson called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County, Indiana to order at 4:02 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 2017, at Forest Hills Country Club in Richmond, Indiana. Jackson introduced the staff and board of directors.

**2016 IN REVIEW**

Past Chair Paul Witte reviewed 2016 noting it was a year of progress with the attraction of two large employers, Blue Buffalo and Omen Castings, together creating as many as 250 jobs, and also brought Governor Holcomb to our area for the Blue Buffalo ground breaking and Sugar Creek ribbon cutting. He spoke on the recognition the EDC received in 2016:

- a top five recipient in Advanced Manufacturing showing exceptional progress and potential in the area of development by successfully recruiting, retaining, and/or assisting growing businesses
- Richmond being listed as a top micropolitan in the United States by Site Selection Magazine in a tie for 32nd for the number of projects in 2016
- the ground breaking ceremony for Blue Buffalo was featured in an article in Expansion Solutions Magazine as a place where food processors are thriving in Indiana

- Valerie Shaffer was named one of North America's top 50 economic developers by Consultant Connect, a consulting agency designed to bridge the gap between economic developers and site consultants
- Business in Focus Magazine wrote an article about Wayne County, "Where Business and Community Meet," talking about the collaborative effort we as a community put forth in order to attract and retain business.
- the Biz Voice/Indiana Chamber/ September/October issue featured an article about Wayne County highlighting our Innovation and Preservation

He also spoke about the Japanese trade mission attended by Valerie Shaffer and Mayor Dave Snow joining the regional group, East Central Indiana Regional Partnership, to strengthen our relationships with the five Japanese companies who call Wayne County home, as well as introduce the region and Wayne County to new prospects.

## **2017 OVERVIEW**

Current Chair Jeff Jackson presented an overview of the current year, reporting the EDC will continue to give priority to three main initiatives: business retention and expansion, new business attraction, and workforce development. He reported the EDC has worked with three local investment projects to date: Richmond Casting Company, TBK America, and Vandor Corporation. Together, those projects have resulted in \$2.5M in new investment and 51 new job commitments. He reported that Valerie will continue to be involved in sales trips and conferences both inside and outside the state of Indiana, meeting with site selectors, commercial real estate brokers, and company executives to promote Wayne County as a great place to locate their next investment project and that Alaina will be actively involved in responding to leads and providing information to interested parties regarding infrastructure, workforce, available sites and buildings, and other data requests. He spoke on physical infrastructure, that to accommodate expansions and new business, we will continue our efforts to identify and possibly acquire land for industrial park expansion and the EDC will continue to assist however we can in the effort to resolve the challenge of wastewater treatment in Western Wayne County in a way that will recognize how important this investment is to the future of job creation and new business attraction in that part of the county. He spoke about the office move to the Historic Depot District and how it is important that the organization most responsible for growth and change be relocated to the center of a district that's being revitalized and which is attracting new businesses. Finally he spoke on the new talent recruitment website, Hoosier Opportunity, as part of workforce development efforts and how we will be meeting with employers to demonstrate the features of the website and educating them on how to use the site to its full potential, that Renee will devote much of our marketing and social media efforts on the website making sure we build awareness for both employers and job seekers, and that Joe Henry will be working with county high school counselors to provide information to them about how the site can be used as a resource for career planning for their students.

## **HOOSIER OPPORTUNITY DEMONSTRATION**

Shaffer provided a demonstration of the new talent recruitment website, HoosierOpportunity.com. The site is a three-county partnership with Jay and Randolph Counties to offer employment listings for free to those companies who are paying at least \$10/hour as a workforce development effort.

## **RECOGNITION OF PAST CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS**

Jackson presented Witte with a token of the EDC's appreciation for serving as board chair last year. Then both Jackson and Witte presented Nancy Green with a token of the EDC's appreciation for her service on the board as an outgoing board members. Kyle Clark and Jim Cohen, who were unable to attend the meeting, were also honored as outgoing board members.

Paul Witte was appointed to the EDC Board of Directors in 2013 by the Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce and was re-appointed for a second term in 2016. During his tenure on the board he has served on the Industrial Park, Finance, and Executive Committees, serving as Secretary of the board in 2014, Vice Chair in 2015, Chair in 2016, and Immediate Past Chair in 2017.

Kyle Clark was appointed by the Wayne County Commissioners. During Kyle's tenure with the board he served six years on the Industrial Park Committee. In 2015 he was appointed to serve on the Funding Taskforce as part of our strategic planning activities.

Jim Cohen was appointed by the Cambridge City Town Council. Jim joined the Executive Committee in 2012 as Secretary. He served as Vice Chair in 2013 and Chair of the Board in 2014. In addition, Jim also served on the Industrial Park Committee, chairing that committee in 2013.

Nancy Green was appointed by the Mayor of Richmond. Nancy served six years on the Marketing and Communication Committee, chairing that committee in 2015 and 2016. Nancy joined the Executive Committee in 2013 as Secretary and served as Vice Chair in 2014. Nancy continues to serve on the Marketing and Communication Committee.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP AWARD**

Shaffer presented the Economic Development Partnership Award to Elijah Welch. Elijah was awarded because he consistently goes above and beyond to help the EDC get the information we need by the tight deadlines we need it, even if it requires him to step away from his time at a conference and work on an RFI. He provides technical expertise to guide us in making good site development decisions, he never misses a site visit and he goes the extra mile to ensure our clients have a good experience working with the City of Richmond. Elijah is a licensed professional engineer in Indiana and the district engineer for the Richmond Sanitary District where he's been employed for 12 years. He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Purdue University and is a member of the Indiana Water Environment Association, an Indiana past Young Professional Engineer, as well as a member of the EDC's Industrial Park Committee and the Richmond Plat Committee. In 2016, Elijah won the Engineering Excellence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies. In his spare time, Elijah is a volunteer youth sports coach and owner of Muddy Monkey.

#### **COMPANY RECOGNITIONS**

Valerie Shaffer recognized and presented an appreciation award to the following companies and their representatives and thanked them for their investment in Wayne County in 2016:

**Omen Casting Group, USA** – Leslie Jacob, Human Resources and Administrative

- Investment – \$16M
- Jobs – 100
- Incentives – \$275,000 EDIT Grant

**Blue Buffalo Company** – Choo Lim, SVP Supply Chain and Daniel Comiskey, VP Capital Strategy and Logistics

- Investment – \$147M
- Jobs – 165

- Incentives – \$28M performance based TIF bond awarded & public infrastructure improvements pledged

Blue Buffalo presented a video on the history of their company, their current operations, and company culture.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Jackson adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING – 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 5, 2017  
EDC Board Room, 500 S A Street, Suite 2, Richmond, IN 47374**