

## **Webster Economic Development Alliance**

### **Meeting Minutes from February 4, 2016**

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#### **PRESENT:**

Carmen Gumina, Ron Nesbitt, John Cahill, Darrell Byerts, Ginny Nancy, Bill Horeth, Robyn Whittaker, Matt Chatfield, Chris Passero

Carmen Gumina welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said the meeting would end early to allow for an Executive Session of the Board.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from the meeting held on December 3, 2015 were reviewed with no changes. Approval of the minutes – moved by Ron Nesbitt; seconded by John Cahill - all approved.

#### **Financial Report:**

Matt Chatfield reviewed the financial report for the January 2016. Approval of Financial report – moved by Ron Nesbitt and seconded by John Cahill – all approved.

#### **Staff Activity Report:**

Matt Chatfield provided an activity update for the month of January. He said he will meet with MCWA and consultants O'Brien and Gere for the kick off of the Chilled Water District Feasibility Study.

Matt also met with a corporation from Caledonia who would like to relocate to the Xerox campus but there have been issues with the sanitary sewer service. The building connects to the Xerox sewer connection and it would need to be changed which would cost a lot of money. At present the project is on hold. The good news is the County has established a price for the property and the revitalization will take place perhaps with another buyer.

Matt gave an update on the Greenhouse project and said they are still in negotiations with RG&E for improvements to their infrastructure and by the end of the month they will know if the project will happen or not. Basically they will need to be in the facility and actually plant tomatoes by October 2017 and that may be very close.

Matt has been focusing on the Xerox West Campus to identify a potential reuse scenario, who could be involved, and what kind of finance conditions would apply. He

said there is a grant through RG&E for up to \$50 thousand dollars to fund a study or for use for consultants. We could also apply for matching money from Empire State development. Matt explained basically this has been a fact-finding mission for future opportunities which could be presented to the Board.

Carmen Gumina requested that Matt invite Mark Peterson and Vinnie Esposito to attend our next meeting to discuss the future of Xerox given the recent announcement that the company intends to split into two distinct businesses.

Matt said the organization found out in January that we did not advance in the America's Best Communities Competition. He said although we did not advance we did get a lot of positive momentum in the community with a lot of good feedback from the community. We were able to put together a document related to Community Investment Strategy. We also had a net of \$20 thousand dollars in income from the competition, which could be used for some priorities this year.

A discussion ensued related to the preliminary budget for 2016.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Carmen Gumina adjourned the meeting at 8:20 a.m. to allow for the Board members to enter into an Executive Session.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 3, 2016 – 7:30 A.M. / Webster Chamber Offices

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary, WCCED  
JC/ja