

# **Southwest Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative**

April 2, 2015 Meeting Notes

**Committee Members Present:** Jill Bland, Pat Carr, Ben Damerow, Jan Franz, Juanita Miller, Ron Reid, Richard Remus, Ryan Simpson (*delegate of Todd Gustafson*), Jon Start

**Committee Members Absent:** Dennis Berkebile, Barbara Craig, Michael Evans, Todd Gustafson, Luann Harden, Lynn Johnson, Jan Karazan, Vicki Pratt

**Also Present:** Lee Adams, Peter Dams, Rebecca Harvey

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Introductions of Committee members and guests were made.

The agenda was presented and accepted.

## **Approval of Bylaws**

Lee Adams referenced the Southwest Michigan Prosperity Committee Bylaws dated April 2, 2015. He highlighted provisions of the Bylaws, noting they had been revised to reflect Committee review comments. Committee discussion ensued wherein the following modifications were requested:

- **Article II - Members**, Section 1 D. – Alternates – *revise to require alternates to be specifically designated.*
- **Article II - Members**, Section 2.A. – 1<sup>st</sup> sentence – *add 's' to 'representative'.*
- **Article II - Members**, Section 2.C. – Sector not required but approved by the Committee – *add Career and Technical Education and Pre-Kindergarten sectors to list.*

Motion by Richard Remus, supported by Ben Damerow to approve the Southwest Michigan Prosperity Committee Bylaws as revised. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Election of Officers**

Pursuant to the Committee Bylaws, the Committee proceeded with the election of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary.

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**Chairperson:** Two (2) nominations received prior to the meeting:

Ben Damerow – MI Works  
Corey Carolla - Kinexus

Discussion ensued regarding the eligibility of a delegate to serve as an officer of the Committee. Motion by Jill Bland, supported by Ryan Simpson to elect Ben Damerow as Chairperson of the Southwest Michigan Prosperity Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

**Vice Chairperson:** Two (2) nominations received prior to the meeting:

Vicki Pratt – Cornerstone Alliance  
Todd Gustafson - Kinexus

Following general discussion, it was agreed that there should not be a duplication of sectors in the officers of the Committee. It was further suggested that attendance at Committee meetings should be taken into consideration in the election of officers.

Motion was then made by Ron Reid, supported by Richard Remus to also nominate Jon Start – KATS for the position of Vice Chairperson. Motion carried unanimously.

A vote was held on the slate of nominees for Vice Chairperson, with Jon Start receiving 6 votes; Vicki Pratt receiving 2 votes; and, Todd Gustafson receiving 1 vote. Jon Start was elected as Vice Chairperson of the Southwest Michigan Prosperity Committee.

**Secretary:** One (1) nomination received prior to the meeting:

Jan Karazen – Kellogg Community College

Motion by Jill Bland, supported by Ben Damerow to also nominate Jan Franz – Battle Creek Unlimited for the position of Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that with the election of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, and the current nominations for Secretary, there was a portion of the Region that would not be represented in those holding office. Jan Franz then requested that her name be withdrawn from consideration due to her geographic representation. Motion by Jill Bland, supported by Richard Remus to accept the withdrawal from nomination. Motion carried unanimously.

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Motion by Jill Bland, supported by Juanita Miller to then nominate Vicki Pratt – Cornerstone Alliance for the position of Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

A vote was held on the slate of nominees for Secretary, with Vicki Pratt receiving unanimous support.

## **Asset Inventory**

Lee Adams referenced the work completed to date and presented to the Committee in March on the Asset Inventory. He requested volunteers from the Committee to serve on the Asset Inventory Advisory Panel. It was explained that the Panel would serve to critique the inventory data and identify gaps.

Committee members agreed to consider the request and respond.

## **Identify Top Five ‘Community Development’ Projects**

*Proposed Project Scoring Criteria:*

The Committee supported the application of the scoring criteria used for selecting ‘opportunities’ set forth in the Prosperity Plan in 2014, with the addition of ‘connection to other sectors’ as a criterion for consideration. It was also noted that the criterion ‘access to funding’ would more appropriately be considered by the Project Selection Subcommittee.

*Community Development Project Ideas:*

In consideration of the 12 project ideas that were generated during the March 5, 2015 Prosperity Partners meeting, several ideas were combined and rewritten and three (3) new ideas were generated.

The following four (4) projects then received a top priority ranking:

- No common media system within the Region to communicate.
- Contaminated/blight property redevelopment; create ‘redevelopment-ready’ property.
- Regional parks/recreation (nonmotorized pathways) plan.
- Promote regional food system.

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The revised list of Community Development Project Ideas and project scores is attached.

## **Proposed Project Selection Process**

Lee Adams provided an overview of the proposed project selection process. The following were noted:

- A different project selection subcommittee will be created for each goal.
- A representative from each sector will be included on each project selection subcommittee.
- The project selection subcommittee will serve to review the draft Request for Proposals (RFPs) developed by staff and review/recommend for approval responding project proposals.
- A request for volunteers for the Community Development Project Selection Subcommittee will be made to Committee members by email.

## **Next Steps**

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2015 and will serve as the partner meeting for the ‘education’ goal.

Lee Adams noted that he will be contacting Committee members to serve as champions for the upcoming ‘education’ partner survey.

## **Adjournment**