

## **Executive Committee Minutes**

July 18, 2023

9 am – 12 pm

Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel, 100 W. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
Or Virtually via Zoom

### **Members Present & Virtual Attendance:**

Beth Ardisana  
Santa Ono  
Krista Flynn  
Tom Lutz  
Brian Rich  
Mike McLauchlan  
Beverly Walker Griffea  
April Clobes

Awenate Cobbina  
Tony Tomczak  
Bobby Hopewell  
Bill Pink  
Gina Thorsen  
LaJune Montgomery Tabron  
Fay Beydoun

### **Members Absent:**

Phil Shaltz  
Robert McMahan  
Ryan Waddington

Kyle Caldwell  
Sheldon Neeley

### **Staff Present:**

Amiee Evans  
Steve Bakkal  
Lynne Feldpausch  
Christin Armstrong  
Jen Nelson  
Amy Rencher  
Michelle Grinnell  
Linda Ascitutto

Michele Wildman  
Matt McCauley  
Michele Wildman  
Quentin Messer  
Jill Trepkoski

### **I. Call to order**

Mr. Cobbina called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. He requested that Ms. Armstrong provide any necessary communications. There were no communications. A roll call was performed to determine attendance. A quorum of the Executive Committee was declared present. The meeting was held at the Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel, 100 W. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Members of the Executive Committee, MEDC staff, and the public could also participate virtually via Zoom.

### **II. Public Comment**

Mr. Cobbina invited public comment. Mayor David Anderson provided comments welcoming the Executive Committee to the City of Kalamazoo. Ms. Marjorie Steele provided comments regarding the statewide mega site investments.

**III. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Cobbina asked if there were any questions, changes, or corrections to the May 9, 2023, minutes. There were none. *Bobby Hopewell moved to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2023 meeting and Brian Rich supported the motion. A vote was taken with 15 aye votes, 0 nay votes. The motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Cobbina welcomed Dr. Santa Ono to the Executive Committee.

**IV. Finance Subcommittee Report**

Ms. Ardisana provided a review of our current financial statements, indicating the organization remains financially strong. Ms. Jill Trepkoski provided a financial overview as well as an update on the FY24 state budget.

**V. CEO Report**

Mr. Messer provided general organizational updates and recent news on positive rankings for Michigan's business climate. Ms. Amy Rencher provided an update on the small business programming, Ms. Amiee Evans, Mr. Steve Bakkal, and Mr. Tupac Hunter provided an overview of the economic development legislative workgroup and the economic development tools that being discussed in the workgroup. Mr. Fred Molnar and Mr. Bakkal provided an update on the entrepreneurship and innovation programming. Ms. Michele Wildman and Mr. Matt McCauley provided an overview and update of the community development and placemaking programs.

**VI. Open Discussion**

Mr. Cobbina opened up the floor for any open discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.