

GREENE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Wednesday February 1, 2023 4:00 p.m.
Greene County Office Building, Room 427
411 Main Street, Catskill, NY 12414

GCEDC Directors Present:

Mark Maraglio, Chair
Brad Cummings, Vice-Chair
Allen Austin
Linda Overbaugh
Brian Kozloski
April Ernst (Ex-officio, Non-voting)
Pamela Geskie (Ex-officio, Non-voting)

Absent:

Dr. George Timmons (Ex-officio, Non-voting)

GCEDC Staff Present:

James Hannahs, Executive Director
Evelyn Donnelly, Secretary/Treasurer

Others: Warren Hart, Deputy County Administrator, Teri Weiss, Business Marketing Director

A valid quorum was present for voting purposes.

1. Public Comment Period. No public comment.
2. A motion was made by Director Overbaugh and seconded by Director Kozloski to accept the minutes as presented from the December 2022 meeting. Vote 5-0, Motion carries.
3. During the Executive Director report, Mr. Hannahs updated the board on the newly obtained 501c3 status of the corporation that officially labels GCEDC as a federally recognized non-profit. This will allow GCEDC to offer services and qualify for programs specific to non-profits, including the EPA Site Assessment Grant.

Ongoing reporting responsibilities are caught up as the 2022 HUD PAR was mailed and officially submitted. For the federal fiscal year, which ended Sep. 30th, GCEDC expended roughly \$100,000 that directly resulted in the creation of 8 jobs that were either filled by, or made available to, low-to-moderate income individuals. GCEDC paid roughly \$1,700 in program delivery and support services to the Harrison Studio as well.

The EPA Site Assessment grant is still pending and we are expected to hear back in April 2023. Mr. Hannahs indicated that the official 501c3 designation further solidifies our prospects of securing the grant, since the application listed the corporation's status as 'pending.'

Mr. Hannahs updated the board on the Cocksackie RestoreNY project for the Dolan Block on South River Street, where he coordinated an ESD application on behalf of the Village and Empire Riverfront Ventures LLC, the

project developer. The project consists of total renovations of 3,000 sq. ft. of ground floor retail space and 10 market rate apartments on the second and third floors. The total project cost is \$7.1 million with a \$2 million ask from ESD. The grant was due January 27th.

The Microenterprise grant application is finally underway after receiving the go-ahead from NYS OCR. The Harrison Studio is assisting with the program application by providing guidance and template documents. The program desires are as follows:

- a) Goal of assisting 15 businesses, 8 of which are startups, 7 existing, 9 total LMI owned enterprises
- b) Seeking to create 20 jobs, total LMI jobs being 11
- c) Total project cost is \$328,334; \$255,000 in grant funding to microbusinesses, \$28,344 in applicant-required equity match, \$15,000 in administration, \$30,000 in program delivery
 - a. GCEDC could absorb both admin and program delivery but could also outsource to another firm
- d) Goal submission date is 2/28, goal launch date is 6/1

Mr. Hannahs and Deputy Administrator Hart are working with the County Legislature to facilitate a formal letter requesting a budget amendment to fulfill \$50,000 annual operating expenditure.

Business retention efforts are still underway, with Mr. Hannahs indicating correspondence efforts to businesses with outstanding loans ensuring compliance with ongoing reporting. All but one business have turned in the necessary documents and he will continue to work with them to ensure proper compliance.

Additional business attraction and expansion efforts were also discussed in the ED report. Hannahs met with Questar III to assist with workforce efforts in the County alongside the IDA. Both organization supplied Questar with business listings to forge introductions with local employers that may have an interest in developing relationships with trade-oriented students for interactive learning experiences. Mr. Hannahs also met with the owners of Catskill Marina and startup bike shop owners.

4. The Board discussed multiple projects and new businesses located around Greene County.

5. A motion was made by Director Cummings and seconded by Director Overbaugh, having no further business to conduct to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0, Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.