



# IRONWOOD

MICHIGAN | *Find Your North*

## Proceedings of the Economic Development Corporation Meeting Wednesday, June 1, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was held on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 10:00 A.M. in the Memorial Building Women’s Club Room.

1. Director Bergman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Recording of the Roll

MEMBER	Present		EXCUSED	NOT EXCUSED
	YES	NO		
Thorsen, Gina		X	X	
Lemke, Joseph		X	X	
Korpela, Nancy	X			
Meyer, Michael	X			
Kim Corcoran	X			
Ruppe, Mark		X	X	
Schonberg, Bob		X	X	
Glen Ackerman-Behr	X			
Carolyn Libby	X			
<b>Quorum</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Quorum</b>	

Also Present: Community Development Director Tom Bergman and Community Development Assistant Tim Erickson

3. Approval of the May 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes:  
**Motion** by Corcoran to accept the meeting minutes. **Second** by Korpela. **Motion Carried 5 to 0.**
4. Approval of the Agenda.  
**Motion** by Korpela to approve the Agenda. **Second** by Corcoran. **Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

5. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding Items on the Agenda (Three-minute limit): Steve Lehto addressed the Corporation and stated that short-term rentals are pushing out long term rental needs.
6. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding items not on the Agenda (Three-minute limit): Steve Lehto discussed some potential changes that may impact Michigan Works future.
7. Items for Discussion and Consideration.
  - A. Audience with Lisa McKenzie of WUPPDR to discuss housing study: Lisa presented before the Corporation. Next steps were discussed with the potential for funding from the MEDC to fund housing projects in downtown.
  - B. 2022 Goals – Housing discussion next steps (who should be at the table): The Corporation discussed inviting representatives from key organizations. Ackerman-Behr discussed GCC's new direction with creating accessory dwelling units. The new mine will present more housing challenges but also new opportunity for investment in housing in the region. Lisa brought up the idea of advertising on the summer taxes bill to get unused houses onto the market. Glen discussed the economic development positives that short-term rentals bring to the community. Libby brought up the idea of converting the old Sleight school to long-term housing. Lisa brought up doing cooperative housing with a developer or employers. Libby brought up the issue with having difficulty finding the correct agencies or individuals when developing a property. The Corporation discussed making known some of the barriers to development and making it easily accessible without creating unnecessary burden on staff. Libby asked if there could be some extended stay locations within motels or hotels.
  - C. Update on Downtown Development Plan and TIF Plan: The consultants will have a downtown visit by the end of July.
  - D. Adult Use Marihuana Establishment License Application Update: There will be a public hearing on June 13.
  - E. Zoning Ordinance Update and timeline: Bergman is hoping to have the final public hearing in July.
8. Other Business:
  - A. Regional Talent Innovation Grant: GCC has been awarded \$225,000 funding for robotics.
  - B. Ackerman-Behr brought up the need to meet for 90 minutes.
9. Next Meeting: July 6, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
10. Adjournment. **Motion** by Korpela to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. **Second** by Corcoran. **Motion Carried 5 to 0.**



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Michael Meyer, President



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Tim Erickson, Community Development Assistant