



Economic Development Committee

Minutes

Monday, February 23, 2015,

9:30 a.m.

DuPage County Conference Room

233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800

Chicago, Illinois

Committee members present: Christine Sobek (chair, Waubonsee Community College), Peter Creticos (Institute for Work and the Economy), Pat Carey (vice-chair, Cook County), Joanna Greene (Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership), Emily Harris (Harris Strategies), Jason Keller (Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago), Gretchen Kosarko (RW Ventures), Judith Kossy (Policy Planning Partners), MaryBeth Marshall (DuPage Workforce Board), Kurtis Pozsgay (Berwyn Development Corporation)
By Phone: Katie Hamilton (Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce), Kelly O'Brian (Alliance for Regional Development), Lance Pressl (Institute for Work and the Economy), Carrie Thomas (Chicago Jobs Council)

Others present: Rita Athas (WBC), Mike Clements (Will County Governmental League), Thomas Hulseman (Metro Chicago Exports), Janell Jenson (McHenry Council of Mayors), Courtney Pogue (Cook County)

Staff present: Lindsay Hollander, Tom Kotarac, Jacki Murdock, Brian Peterson, Elizabeth Schuh, Gordon Smith, Simone Weil

1.0 Call to Order/Introductions

Committee chair Christine Sobek called the meeting to order at 9:35am.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

No agenda changes were made.

Chairwoman Sobek shared information on an upcoming celebration to release Waubonsee Community College's 2020 master plan and open the new field house on March 10, 2015. Simone Weil introduced CMAP's new Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programming, Tom Kotarac.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting was made by Pat Carey, seconded by Joanna Green, and with all in favor, the motion carried.

4.0 Update on Regional Exports Collaborative

Thomas Hulseman, managing director of the Metro Chicago Exports collaborative, introduced himself to the committee, sharing his background in manufacturing and exporting. Hulseman provided an overview of the 2-year pilot program's workplan, which includes hiring a staff, engagement of businesses and export-support partners, and development of an advisory council. Hulseman also discussed the support services that Metro Chicago Exports will provide to fill the pipeline of companies with the capacity to export, strengthen the network of service providers, and reduce initial costs for accessing international markets. The committee discussed the potential workforce needs for new exporters and how the collaborative will identify and target industries to build the pipeline of exporters.

5.0 Cook County Property Tax Classification Analysis

Lindsay Hollander shared recent analysis on property tax assessment classification in Cook County. The research illustrated the effects of classification on nonresidential taxpayers throughout Cook County. CMAP's analysis has found that higher assessment of industrial and commercial properties plays a partial role in higher property tax rates, which may impede economic development in some areas of Cook County. The committee discussed the challenges and opportunities for dealing with the system and the need to gain more clarity about how the policy might be reoriented to curtail the cycle of stagnant economic growth faced by some communities.

6.0 Next Long Range Regional Plan

Liz Schuh followed up on her presentation in November 2014 to discuss CMAP's FY2016 budget and workplan which will include activities to inform the next long-range planning process. Schuh discussed FY15 progress to review CMAP research on the regional economy and workforce during the implementation of GO TO 2040 and catalogue best practices. Staff will build off of and expand on CMAP's industry cluster research, regional economic indicators, and economic development practices research. Staff also proposes looking further into the demographic drivers of economic success, coordination of economic development, and the opportunities and challenges related to the movement of goods and people. Committee members discussed the potential scope of several areas of research.

7.0 Other Business

Peter Creticos discussed a recent OECD research on local governance challenges including, "The Metropolitan Century" and "Governing the City" that was forwarded to the committee following the meeting.

8.0 Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

9.0 Next meeting

The Economic Development Committee is scheduled to meet next on Monday, March 23, 2015 at 9:30am.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simone Weil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'W'.

Simone Weil