

Geneva Industrial Development Agency Board Meeting
City Hall, Geneva, New York
Tuesday, February 16, 2016

In Attendance

- Board Members present: Teresa Angelo, Anne Nenneau, Rick Bley, Brian Finnerty
 - Absent: Ron Alcock, Nicholas Massa, Bob Anania, Frank Cecere
 - Others present: Adam Blowers, Matt Horn, Collette Barnard, Stan Tepfer, Paul Bleakley, Dave Shaw
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Meeting Call to Order

Vice Chair Teresa Angelo called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bley made a motion, Ms. Nenneau seconded, and the Board unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Park Partnership had revenue of \$1,844.43 from American Tower and no expenses were recorded.

Mr. Finnerty made a motion, Mr. Bley seconded, and the Board unanimously resolved to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Presentation of Food and Beverage Innovation District Concept

Mr. Horn made the presentation to the Board. The Food and Beverage Innovation District concept is in alignment with the Finger Lakes Regional Strategy as a project under the Agriculture and Food Production pillar. The City of Geneva displays all three Strategy enablers: Pathways to Property: Workforce Development, Entrepreneurship and Development, and Higher Education and Research and provides an excellent quality of life for its residents. The Innovation Ecosystem includes Economic Assets (Cornell University, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and FLCC's Viticulture and Enology programs); Physical Assets (micro housing, the Smith Opera House, and the lakefront); Networking Assets (the Technology Farm where a dozen small firms interact on a daily basis).

Mr. Horn explained the Geneva Entrepreneurial Lab (GEL) concept. The GEL will be located in downtown Geneva and will feature an open floor plan where entrepreneurs can network as they develop their business concepts. Business counseling and administrative support will be provided. A small fee will be paid by the entrepreneurs in the GEL but the operation will not sustain itself. The GEL should be viewed as a service with associated costs. The Food Innovation Center will operate as a community kitchen where entrepreneurs can further develop their product. With the appropriate fee structure, this facility can sustain itself. As these small businesses prosper, they will graduate into space at the Technology Farm. Funding can be provided through the State, private partners, as well as operational support on the City side. Ms. Nenneau suggested that the space on the second floor of the GEDC might work well for the GEL.

GEDC Fire Panel

The GEDC is in need of a new fire panel alarm system at a cost of \$8,500.

Mr. Bley made a motion, Ms. Nenneau seconded, and the Board unanimously approved this expenditure.

Updates

Ag and Food Tech Park – Preparing to receive the \$500,000 grant to support the expansion at the Park. Empire Cider is ready to start production and is advertising for employees.

GEDC – LaBella is ready to move forward with a bid package for the electrical work and estimates a cost of \$400,000. The space once occupied by 2TRG requires cleanup. The investment in the cleanup will allow the space to be available for lease. The cleanup is anticipated to cost approximately \$350,000. The cleanup could take 3 – 6 months. Mr. Horn provided three financing scenarios for the Board to consider. He will begin to approach banks for information on financing terms and will bring that information back to the Board.

City Council – Mr. Horn reported that the City Council Retreat took place in late January. A plan to rebuild the general fund is under development. Discretionary spending was down by 30% in the 4th quarter. The staffing plan was reviewed as well as the 2016 Capital Program. Several parks require improvements. The Housing Strategy was discussed. There are over 550 subsidized dwelling units. The City is working with the Ontario County Department of Social Services to conduct inspections of subsidized units. The Section 8 program is managed by the Geneva Housing Authority. City Council also discussed the code of ethics.

School District – Mr. Tepfer reported that the student population has decreased over the years but seems to have leveled out. Incoming classes are at about 150 students. The preschool numbers have increased. Two thirds of the funding for the school district comes from the State. The school district expects a 30% increase from the state this year. The school district is starting to grow again.

Marketing Committee – A joint IDA, LDC website is progressing. A more comprehensive website is the anticipated outcome.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Lawrence (Rick) Bley,
Secretary/Treasurer