

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

C O M M I T T E E

July 10, 2024

MINUTES

PRESENT: Ollia Ridge, Waseem Ahmed, Santos Garcia, Maiknue Vang, Rob Poythress, John McCann, Melissa Jones, Adam Olivares

ABSENT: Laura Young, Jordan Wamhoff, Cathey Thornburg

STAFF: Bobby Kahn, Lois Leonard, Fawn McLaughlin (consultant)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:55 p.m. by Chairman Poythress.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Minutes of July 12, 2023

On motion by Committee Member Garcia and seconded by Committee Member Ridge the minutes of July 12, 2023 are approved as presented. Motion carried.

4.0 CEDS Technical Report- Current Conditions

- a. Economic Environment- Fawn McLaughlin, FJMcLaughlin & Associates reviewed the *Economic Environment* section of the technical report. This section shows what's going on in the county economically. Labor force, employment, and talent pipeline. How robust is that related to educational attainment, career technical education, and skills gap. It looks at existing industry and job mix as well as target industries.
- b. Social Environment- Fawn reviewed the social environment. This section focuses on population, age, diversity, sources of income, poverty, housing, health, safety and childcare. The most notable difference since the last CEDS is the percentage of people that are not able to afford homes.

- c. Physical Environment- Fawn reviewed the physical environment. This includes local infrastructure such as sewer, water, storm water. Regional infrastructure, broadband, energy, transportation and economic opportunity areas. The cities and county have done a good job with changes in infrastructure using relief fund monies and continue to invest so there are adequate services available as the cities and counties grow but it's still not enough. If it were there would be more development. She included threats to resiliency which we don't have a lot of control. The biggest suggestion is to address the threats by having a plan in place. The cities and counties need to have disaster plans in place if the threats were to materialize.
- d. SWOT- Fawn reviewed the SWOT. Who are the assets, what are the challenges, what are the opportunities moving forward. She reviewed the strength, weakness, opportunities and threats of the economic, physical and social environments.

5.0 CEDS Strategic Plan (October 09,2024)

- a. Vision, Goals, Strategies-
- b. Summary of Current Conditions
- c. SWOT
- d. Action Plan & Performance Evaluation

Fawn reviewed the previous visions, goals and strategies adding a slight change in the strategies to include "to provide opportunities to up skill". Moving forward with our input and support she will develop the strategic action plan, SWOT, and develop a matrix to follow progress. At the October 9th meeting the committee will review, approve and adopt a conditional CEDS. At that time it will go out to a 30 day public review and will be submitted to the EDA for a review to be sure we've met all the criteria. Once the 30 days are over then we will submit to EDA for formal review and approval. After that, the work begins for the next 5 years.

6.0 Questions?

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Committee Member McCann and seconded by Committee Member Jones the meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Leonard, Recording Secretary