



Albion Economic Development Corporation

Community Engagement
Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, January 17, 9:00 am
Albion Economic Development Corporation
115 N. Superior St. Albion, MI 49224

Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91203580052?pwd=TjJkNitRSkYxUExJWGxRSXA4SS9ldz09>

Mission Statement: Partnering with our community to drive economic growth and enrich local lives through active collaboration.

AGENDA

- 1) Call To Order (1 min)
- 2) Approve Agenda (1 min)
- 3) Welcome and Introductions (10 min)

Action Items

- 4) Discussion on Open Board Seats (10 min)
- 5) Discussion on Austin Ave. Corridor (10 min)
- 6) Setting Next Meeting's Agenda (5 min)
- 7) Public Comment (TBD)
(Persons addressing the Committee shall limit their comments to no more than 3 minutes)
- 8) Adjournment (1 Min)

Albion Economic Development Corporation

Community Engagement Task Force

January 17, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Harry Bonner Jr., Beth Brownell, Councilperson Williams, Linda LaNoue, Taylor Sandoval, Elvarene Showers, Chad Farmer, Linda Clawson, Sally Ammerman, Staci Stuart, Tramaine Williams

Members Absent:

OTHERS: None

STAFF: Takala Williams, Virgie Ammerman

The meeting was called to order by Williams at 10:05 am.

1. There were no prior meeting minutes.
2. Meeting Objectives:
 - a. Discuss what the community engagement task force is for
 - b. Discussion on the open Albion EDC Board seats
 - c. Discuss what the community needs from the Economic Development Corporation
3. Introductions were made by all members of the group. Everyone described who they were and what they would like to bring to the Community Engagement Task Force.
4. Discussion was had about the EDC open board seats. Virgie explained the process of how a community member could obtain a board seat, noted residency in Albion is not required, and noted a strong interest in the betterment of Albion is an important characteristic of a board member.
5. Linda Lanoue asked about the time commitments of an EDC board member – 2 hours a month for board meetings; an hour or 2 a month for committee work. An additional couple of hours a month for Executive/Officer duties.
6. Discussion was had about the Austin Avenue Corridor
 - a. Harry Bonner Jr. Suggested a community survey to gauge what the community would like to see in that area.
 - i. Would like to see restaurants. Theaters, community centers
 - ii. Recalls 'The Corner' as being central to the neighborhood.
 - b. Linda LaNoue spoke of making sure we focus on sustainability,
 - i. Pop-up Activations, Theater building sets to pay homage to what that area once was, bringing tourism and fundraising
 - c. Tramaine Williams asked if the spaces available in the corridor were privately owned
 - i. Virgie answered yes and we can work with private owners to assist in finding funding

- d. Council member Williams would like to see the area a cultural hub as this area is the cornerstone of the historical community.
 - i. He wants to see that the owners of the current buildings are supported and not bought out.
 - ii. Reinvest into McAuliffe park, T-ball field, daytime, nightlife, hands on grocery store similar to Horrocks.
 - e. Virgie then explained (CIA) Corridor Improvement Authority and a TIFA that can be used to bring in new developments.
 - f. Council member Williams expressed interest in being on a board to expand the opportunity zone or creating a new opportunity zone.
 - g. We then discussed next meeting agenda
 - i. Lisa Houze motivational speaker author of Candy Girl Mentality
 - ii. What groups can help explore some of these ideals that were brought up today
 - iii. Discuss Pastor Amos' 5-Point plan on homelessness in our city
 - iv. How can the community interact with Harrington School
7. Take-Aways
- a. Takala to design a survey re The Corner (Austin Ave) desires of the Community
 - b. Virgie to continue to socialize and investigate the CIA process.
 - c. Communications around needing new board members.
8. Meeting adjourned 10 am.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, February 21st, 9am, EDC Offices – 115 N. Superior.