



Albion Economic Development Corporation

Community Engagement
Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 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) Corridor Improvement Authority (10 min)
- 5) New OPRA Districts (10 min)
- 6) Empowering Black Voices – Feb 27th 6 – 8-pm (5 min)
- 7) How Can the Community Interact with Harrington School? (5 min)
- 8) Support Albion Restaurant Group (5 min)
- 9) Damage Control Monday Feb 12th Luncheon Series (5 min)
- 10) Setting Next Meeting's Agenda (5 min)
- 11) Public Comment (TBD)
(Persons addressing the Committee shall limit their comments to no more than 3 minutes)
- 12) Adjournment (1 Min)

Parking Lot

Austin Ave Corridor Revisit and Survey
Open EDC Board Seats – 6
Identifying Partners for Execution of Ideas
Pastor Amos's 5-Point Plan on Homelessness

Albion Economic Development Corporation

Community Engagement Task Force

February 21, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilperson Williams, Taylor Sandoval, Chad Farmer, Michelle O, Januari Humphrey, Angel Harrison, LaFonda W, Alfredia-Dysart Drake

Members Absent:

OTHERS: None

STAFF: Takala Williams

The meeting was called to order by Williams at 9:04 am.

1. Agenda was approved
2. Introductions were made by all members of the group. Everyone described who they were and why they are a part of the Community Engagement Task Force
3. Discussion was had if the Task Force would like more information about the Corridor Improvement Authority-All participants said yes
4. Januari Humphrey provided the group with information about Wildflower Crossing 1200 Westover Blvd Albion, MI 49224.
 - a. They currently have 4 rentals
 - b. Rent-to-own options are available with "Ownership Rocks Program"
 - c. Their goal is to have 340 homes in total
 - d. \$500 Referral bonus
 - e. Clubhouse Open House March 8th & 9th 11am-2pm
5. OPRA-Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act was discussed
 - a. Obsolete Property was defined as Obsolete property in an area characterized by obsolete commercial property or commercial housing property
 - b. Participants stated they would like to have more information about OPRA brought to our next meeting
6. Discussion was had about the upcoming Black History Month Capstone event with Lisa Howze on February 27, 2024 6-8pm
 - a. Takala encourage the committee to attend the event and share on social media
 - i. We discussed the book "Candy Girl Mentality" written by Lisa Howze
 - ii. Discussion was had on the topic: Elevating Black Voice, The Power of Resilience and Representation.
 - iii. Participants stated that they felt this event would be empowering for our community.

7. Discussion and ideals were brought up on how the community can interact with Harrington School.
 - a. An ideal for reading to the children. Getting a group together of authors who have written children's books and have them come read their book to the children at Harrington School once a month.
 - b. Help administer a digital email for children to send to their mothers on Mother's Day
 - c. T-Shirts and Hat with a "I love Harrington Elementary" or a similar slogan to highlight Harrington Elementary. That can be worn by teachers, parents and students.
 - d. "popcorn day" for parents to buy popcorn
 - e. Become a presence at the school to help student engagement like the Grandmother program in the 80's-90's which helped students and staff.
 - f. Encourage literacy at every age level
8. Discussion was had about what it would look like to support The Albion Restaurant Group
 - a. Coming to the Albion Restaurant Group monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month @10am
 - b. Networking, Albion Restaurant Group information
9. Setting Next Month's Agenda
 - a. Members want to talk about Homelessness in Albion
 - b. Connect w/Neighborhoods Inc.
 - c. Collect data on number of people without housing in Albion
10. Meeting adjourned 10 am.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, March 20th, 9am, EDC Offices – 115 N. Superior.

Parking lot

1. Austin Ave survey questions to be emailed to group
2. Identifying partners for execution