

# NEISDC Meeting Minutes

Location: The Regional Chamber, V2030 Conference Room  
Date: October 25, 2024  
Time: 3:00 pm  
Facilitator: The Regional Chamber

## Agenda Items

### DETERMINE QUORUM

Ron Turpin, Bill Konyha, Travis Holdman, Richard Strick, Andrew Briggs, Stephane Frijia, Keith Thornton, Mark Wickersham, Phil GiaQuinta, Craig Snow

### APPROVE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda from Andrew Briggs, seconded by Richard Strick, passed unanimously.

### APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes from Richard Strick, seconded by Travis Holdman, passed unanimously.

### RDA REPORT

Erin Whittle of Whittle Strategies provided the commission with a financial report (P&L) and update.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ryan requested approval of the existing grant agreements and disbursements provided in the advance material.

#### Grant Agreements

J. Kruse – Richard Strick motioned to approve the agreement, seconded by Keith Thornton, and passed unanimously.

NEICC – Richard Strick motioned to approve the agreement, seconded by Phil GiaQuinta, and passed unanimously.

Grow Allen, Inc. - Richard Strick made the motion to approve, seconded by Travis Holdman, and passed unanimously; Ron Turpin abstained.

Grow Wabash - Richard Strick made a motion to approve, seconded by Travis Holdman, and passed unanimously.

Questa, Inc. - Richard Strick made a motion to approve, seconded by Craig Snow, and passed unanimously.

#### Disbursements

Make My Move – \$330K - this is not a match from the IEDC, only a pass-through for the project; Travis Holdman made the motion to approve, seconded by Phil GiaQuinta, and passed unanimously.

Wabash Fellowship Program - \$28,750 – motion to approve by Craig Snow, seconded by Richard Strick, passed unanimously.

NEIECC - \$329,106.74 – motion to approve by Richard Strick, seconded by Travis Holdman, passed unanimously.

J. Kruse - \$380K - motion to approve by Richard Strick, seconded by Craig Snow, passed unanimously.

Grow Allen - \$125K motion to approve by Craig Snow, seconded by Keith Thornton, Ron Turpin recused himself, passed unanimously.

#### • GOAL I COMMITTEE (TALENT ATTRACTION & RETENTION)

Visit Fort Wayne presented their Tourism Master Plan, a ten-year vision and work plan outlining tourism-based growth (20 recommendations – 6 strategic focus areas) for Allen County that impacts the entire NEI Region. The focus of this specific ask is to fund \$98,000 towards a \$288,000 study on how we build a nationally recognized music economy. Mark Wickersham commented on how approved programs provide interconnected results (Make My Move & Music Industry Talent Attraction Strategies). Jill Boggs added her insights into the regional impact of this project and will provide the strategic partnership list later. Stephane Frijia recommended that Visit Fort Wayne have the LEDOs help develop the hub discussed in their presentation. Travis Holdman motioned to approve the Visit Fort Wayne proposal, seconded by Richard Strick and passed unanimously.

#### • GOAL II COMMITTEE (TALENT DEVELOPMENT)

There are no items to report.

#### • GOAL III COMMITTEE (HOUSING)

Part of the \$10M allocation the SDC approved earlier this year was for professional services. Ryan Twiss presented a professional services agreement from the Club 720 Development Corporation (for \$760K). The only funds from the pool spent thus far have been

on the housing symposium. Ron suggested the involvement of the Mayors & Commissioners' Committee in the project based on Stephane Frijia's explanation of the information the study would provide. Craig Snow motioned to approve the agreement, seconded by Travis Holdman, and passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:08 pm.