



NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS BOARD

JANUARY 7, 2022

9:00-10:30 AM

VIRTUAL MEETING

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Kellam, Keith Davis, Leroy Jackson, Mark Michael, Beth Green, Bill Bradley, Chris Straw, Corey Schoon, James Phillips, Darlene Stanley, Darryl Esterline, Jane Gresham, Jordi Disler, Kim Barnett-Johnson, Patrick Buesching, Rebecca Schroeder, Rich Beck, Tim Hartigan, Tonya Weaver, and Jim Walmsley.

STAFF PRESENT:

Rick Farrant, Erica Lillie, Anne Meyer, Edmond O'Neal, Lori Rice and Kim Tempel.

ALSO ATTENDING:

Alex Corn and Kent Sellers.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Keith Davis called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.; a quorum was present.

II. Consent Agenda

The minutes of the October 1, 2021 meeting and financials were provided in the packet of advance materials. Jane Gresham moved to approve the minutes and financial report. Jeff Kellam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Davis provided updates on several board members. Alan Duff has left the board and Leroy Jackson has agreed to assume Duff's position as secretary/treasurer of the board. Board Member Corey Schoon has accepted a position with the Garrett-Keyser-Butler Community School District; he will remain on the board. Board Member Bill Bradley is retiring and will no longer be on the board.

III. Audit Report PY 2021-22 – Lori Rice

Chief Financial Officer Lori Rice reported that Northeast Indiana Works had a clean audit, with no weaknesses or deficiencies noted. Davis complimented Lori and the rest of the team for the audit, which was unanimously accepted by the board.

IV. Career Awareness Campaigns – Rick Farrant

Director of Communications Rick Farrant reported on two career awareness campaigns undertaken by Northeast Indiana Works that have received funding from foundations – Your Future: Make It Your Own, funded by the Dekko Foundation, and a manufacturing awareness campaign funded by the Don Wood Foundation. In total, the foundations have agreed to \$380,000 in funding. Farrant said Northeast Indiana Works is seeking additional funding to support the campaigns, which will largely focus on middle school-age young people.

V. Allen County Together Plan – John Urbahns, Ellen Cutter

Urbahns, president/CEO of Greater Fort Wayne Inc., and Ellen Cutter, vice president of economic development, outlined the Allen County Together Plan, a sweeping economic development plan through 2031, and the process that led to the plan. Among the goals: Advance development of the riverfront in downtown Fort Wayne; attract and grow high-wage jobs;

pursue a major expansion of student housing for college students; become a top 10 music city through expanded festivals, music venues, and music industry innovation and technology; become a premier Industry 4.0 automotive tech community; launch a \$25-million venture capital fund and accelerator by the end of 2031; and plan and execute development projects in southeast Fort Wayne that attract \$250 million in capital investment by the end of 2031. Commissioner Rich Beck lauded the plan. A copy of the plan was emailed to board members. It can also be accessed here: act.gfwinc.com.

VI. President/CEO Remarks – Edmond O’Neal

O’Neal invited board members who are interested to schedule brief one-on-one meetings with him; noted that the auditor will now fill out the 990 Form and it will be brought back to the board for ratification; and that a meeting will be held soon to renew the chief elected officials agreement.

VII. Board Chair’s Remarks – Keith Davis

Davis noted that a board retreat planned for 2020 will likely not happen until the summer, given the concerns about COVID-19. He asked board members to submit topics they’d like to see covered during the retreat. O’Neal said money is available to retain a facilitator for the retreat.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

(The next meeting of the board is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. April 1, 2022.)