

**DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF ABILENE, INC.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 30, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Joe Crawford Marelyn Shedd Scott Senter	Mike Schweikhard Paul Cannon
STAFF PRESENT:	Richard Burdine Dan Santee	Kim Tarrant
GUESTS PRESENT:	Stephanie Dugan Manual Diaz Carl Kieke	Nat'l Development Council KTAB News Abilene Reporter-News

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** Joe Crawford called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Develop Abilene conference room located at 174 Cypress, 3rd floor, Abilene, TX.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 24, 2009 MEETING.** A typographical error was noted on Item #7 of the Feb. 24th minutes. The first word of the last line of the second paragraph should be "must" instead of "much". The minutes were corrected and Paul Cannon made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2009 meeting as corrected. Mike Schweikhard seconded and the motion carried.
- 3. SALES TAX REPORT FOR MARCH 2009 AND PRELIMINARY STATUS OF FUNDS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2009.** The sales tax rebate for economic development for March 2009 was \$602,464.36, which is 5.45% above this same time last year.
- 4. EXECUTIVE SESSION.** I hereby announce we are going into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, .072, and .087 to consult with our legal counsel, discuss real property transactions, and discuss economic development negotiations involving a business prospect, as set forth on the agenda. Any vote or action will be taken in open session.

President Joe Crawford announced the date is March 30, 2009 and the time is 1:36 p.m. Mr. Crawford then announced the date is still March 30, 2009 and the time is 2:34 p.m. No vote or action was taken in Executive Session.

- 5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF AN ORAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SECOND ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP OF ACU'S SPRINGBOARD IDEA CHALLENGE.** In 2008, ACU's College of Business proposed a business plan competition entitled "Springboard Idea Challenge", which ended up being a huge success. Survey results from last year's 49 applicants were astounding. Before Springboard 2008, 79% of last year's applicants had never seriously considered starting a business. After the event, 100% of participants claim they intend to own their own business at some point in the future and 60% of those are working to start a business as soon as possible. Also, two Springboard businesses developed in Abilene have been sold/acquired in the past year.

In 2008, the DCOA sponsored the event at the Platinum level of \$5,000 and staff recommends the DCOA sponsor this event in 2009 at the same \$5,000 Platinum level.

A motion was made by Mike Schweikhard to approve by oral resolution staff's recommendation as presented. Paul Cannon seconded and the motion passed by unanimous consent.

6. **BRIEFING OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF ABILENE, INC. PARTICIPATION IN A NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT TRANSACTION FOR THE LIFE SCIENCES ACCELERATOR AND LABORATORY SPACE ON PINE STREET.** The DCOA has invested millions to provide necessary infrastructure for Abilene's growing biotech research sector. Among these investments was infrastructure assistance for the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy at 1718 Pine.

The DCOA was recently approved by the National Development Council (NDC) for a 2009 New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) allocation of \$10 million (\$3.9 million in actual tax credits) that will net an additional \$2 million for reinvestment in the project. A new entity was formed to facilitate the NMTC process called the Abilene Life Sciences Foundation, Inc. (ALSF). Stephanie Dugan with the National Development Council was present to answer any questions about the transaction.

There was no action taken on this item.

7. **DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SUB-LEASE OF THE 1ST FLOOR OF THE GRANT BUILDING (302 PINE) TO THE ABILENE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT.** In December 2008, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) awarded a STEM grant (science, technology, engineering, math) to the Abilene Independent School District (AISD) to fund an academy of students from grades 9 through 12 studying engineering and computer science. The AISD will partner with Abilene Christian University (ACU) who has agreed to provide facilities for the academy.

Class room space at ACU won't be available until Fall 2010. In the interim, AISD Administration has requested to sublease the first floor of the Grant Building (302 Pine) for the first school year. The second and third floors are occupied by Texas Tech University. Any costs resulting from AISD's occupancy of the 1st floor will be absorbed by AISD and/or Texas Tech University.

Staff recommends approval of an oral resolution authorizing the CEO to negotiate a one-year sublease with the Abilene Independent School District to establish a Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) High School.

Scott Senter moved to approve by oral resolution staff's recommendation as presented above. Marelyn Shedd seconded and the motion carried.

- 8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF AN ORAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENGAGEMENT OF A GRANT WRITER TO PURSUE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT AND EXPENDITURES NOT TO EXCEED \$8,000 FOR SUCH SERVICES.** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides billions of dollars to federal agencies for disbursement to states and cities through allocation formulas and competitive grants. The National Institute of Health has several opportunities for funding to further develop infrastructure in support of the DCOA's biotech sector initiative. However, staff does not have the time necessary to research and develop successful grant applications, plus several of the programs have very short application deadlines.

Staff recommends approval of an oral resolution authorizing engagement of a grant writer to pursue funding opportunities in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and expenditures not to exceed \$8,000.

Marelyn Shedd made a motion to approve, by oral resolution, staff's recommendation as presented above. The motion was seconded by Paul Cannon and it passed by unanimous consent.

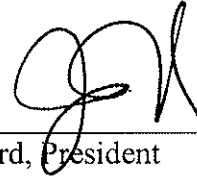
- 9. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO HANGARS AT THE ABILENE REGIONAL AIRPORT CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY EAGLE AVIATION SERVICES TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND BIRD NUISANCE PROBLEMS.** Richard Burdine explained the hangars at the Abilene Regional Airport occupied by Eagle Aviation Services, Inc. (EASI) have experienced bird infestation problems, which has led to damage to the exposed ceiling insulation. Staff obtained bids to repair insulation in Hangars 0, 1, 2 and 3, and install bird netting in Hangars 0 and 1. The low bidder is Hawk Portable Buildings at \$125,723.

Also discussed was the City of Abilene's contract with TAC for energy efficiency upgrades in City structures. Hangar 1, which is City-owned, is on schedule for lighting upgrades under the contract to begin soon. TAC also provided bids to upgrade lighting in Hangars 0, 2 and 3, which are DCOA-owned, however, DCOA will have to provide the funding for the upgrades. The upgrades are intended to increase energy efficiency and reduce EASI's operating costs at a cost to the DCOA of \$136,583.

After discussion, the board decided to go forward with funding for insulation repair and bird netting in the hangars as outlined above. Funding for the lighting upgrades was not approved pending additional information.

Scott Senter made a motion to approve resolution DCOA-2009.11 amended to eliminate funding for lighting upgrades in the amount of \$136,583. Funding approved is \$138,295 for insulation repair, bird netting and contingency. Paul Cannon seconded and it passed by unanimous consent.

10. ADJOURNMENT. The next board meeting will be Monday, April 13, 2009. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Joe Crawford, President