

**DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF ABILENE, INC.**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 11, 2015**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dave Copeland      Jack Rich      Marelyn Shedd  
John Beckham

**MEMBER ABSENT:** Dani Ramsay

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kent Sharp      Kim Tarrant      Stanley Smith

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Bruce Kreitler – Abilene City Council  
Tom Stellman – TIP Strategies  
Alex Cooke – TIP Strategies

**1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:** President Dave Copeland called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. at Abilene Laboratories, 1325 Pine St., Abilene Texas.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 27, 2015 BOARD MEETING:** Jack Rich moved to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2015, board meeting. John Beckham seconded and the motion carried.

**3. UPDATE ON THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS BY TIP STRATEGIES:** Tom Stellman and Alex Cooke with TIP Strategies gave a progress report to the board. They are currently; 1) reviewing past economic plans, demographic and trend data, 2) looking at Abilene's competition with other communities for growth opportunities, and 3) performing a complete economic analysis and will conduct stakeholder interviews. A survey will be sent out to local businesses with the help of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce asking what challenges they think the community currently faces. The next phase will be going before the strategic planning committee with a set of potential ideas and opportunities for the community. Once they have had a chance to review, TIP will go before the DCOA board again to get input on those opportunities.

The goals of the plan are increasing the tax base, encouraging investment in the community, increasing the standard of living, making Abilene a destination for new business, and attracting a workforce to support new and existing businesses. Once the plan is presented it will include reports on community assets and targeted industries, incentive plans and policies with marketing strategies to deliver economic development in the community. The plan will also have two sets of matrixes (activity and outcome) to judge whether or not the plan is working. A solid draft will be finished in November or December.

**4. EXECUTIVE SESSION – SESSION 1:** I hereby announce we are going into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, 072, 074 and 087 to consult with our legal counsel, discuss real property transactions, personnel matters, 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 Dave Copeland announced the date is August 11, 2015, and the time is 1:58 p.m. Later, President Copeland announced the date is still August 11, 2015, and the time is 2:30 p.m. No vote or action was taken in Executive Session.

**5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR AN INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TAYLOR COUNTY SCHOOLS AND CISCO COLLEGE:** Kent Sharp presented a request for additional funds needed for the new Industrial Workforce Training Program (“Program”) with Taylor County school districts and Cisco College. Thirty thousand dollars more will match a state grant to purchase specialized equipment costing about \$100,000 needed to conduct the industrial maintenance module of the program. DCOA’s funding is contingent on the Workforce Center applying for and being awarded a state High Demand Workforce grant that will cover the remainder of the funds needed to purchase the necessary equipment.

Marelyn Shedd moved to approve Resolution DCOA-2015.17 authorizing additional funding up to \$30,000 to be used as a match for a state grant for equipment purchases. Jack Rich seconded and the motion carried.

**6. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



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Dave Copeland, President