

Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC)

**BWB Building  
201 West Third Street, Jamestown, NY  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room  
&**

**Electronically via Live Stream on YouTube & Zoom**

January 23, 2024  
11:45 a.m.

Gary Henry	Chairman
Brad Walters	Vice Chairman
Sagan Sheffield- Smith	Treasurer
Dan Heitzenrater	Secretary
Tom Harmon	Member
Steven Thorpe	Member
Daniel DeMarte	Member
Amy Harding	Member

Also in attendance:

Mark Geise	Administrative Director/CEO
Richard E. Dixon	Chief Financial Officer
Milan K. Tyler, Esq.	Counsel
Greg Peterson	Counsel
Kristine Morabito	IDA Staff
Rosie Strandburg	IDA Staff
Carol Rasmussen	IDA Staff
Kayla Strandburg	IDA Staff
Nate Aldrich	IDA Staff
Rebecca Wurster	IDA Staff
Jeanette Lo Bello	IDA Staff
Jason Sample	IDA Staff
Paul Wendel	County Executive
Paul Riser	Ralph Wilson Foundation
Eric Phamdo	Ralph Wilson Foundation

Absent Board Member(s):

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Meeting was called to order by Gary Henry, Chairman, at 11:45a.m.

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Gary Henry

I would like to welcome the Board of Directors to the Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corporation meeting. We are meeting at the BWB Building, 201 West Third Street, Jamestown New York. We are also streaming live via YouTube and Zoom. It is January 23, 2024 and it is currently 11:45 a.m. We will start with a roll call vote.

Board

Aye – Unanimous. (8 Members in Attendance)

Gary Henry

You should have already received the minutes from December 19, 2023 meeting and had a chance to review those. Do we have any additions or corrections to the minutes? Hearing none, do we have a motion to accept the minutes?

Steven Thorpe

So moved.

Gary Henry

Thank you Steve. Do we have a second?

Daniel DeMarte

Second.

Gary Henry

Dan, thank you. All in favor say Aye.

Board

Aye – Unanimous.

Gary Henry

Opposed? The minutes have been approved. Do we have any New Business to come before the Board? Hearing none we will go right into the Executive Directors Report.

Mark Geise

I am going to do the same thing I did for the IDA but I am going to try to be even more brief-talk about all the great work that the Partnership has done over the last year. First of all we really are grateful to our investors. One of which is the Ralph Wilson Foundation who allocated over a million dollars over three years to the Partnership. Thank you. Of course, the various foundations-Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, the Gebbie Foundation, the County –thank you PJ-and the IDA has also contributed. The staff is Nate –manages it and Monica Simpson, Kristy and Crystal and Rebecca and Jason are all part of the Partnership. I won't go through all the Advisory Board Meetings but I will call to attention that Dan Heitzenrater is a Co-Chair on the Advisory Board. They do a really really good job. If you look over at the 2023 by the numbers it's pretty

incredible all the work that goes into this kind of thing and what we have been able to accomplish. Nate's going to tag team with me here a little bit. I'm sure he will jump in.

Mark Geise & Nate Aldrich

Reviewed and discussed the CCPEG 2023 Annual Report (Pages 8-17)

### **Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth**

- Mission
- About CCPEG
- 2023 By the Numbers
- 2023 CCPEG Grant Awards
- Additional Grant Dollars Leveraged

Work Groups:

- **Business Development**
  - Priority Projects
    1. Development-Ready Site Preparedness
    2. Chadakoin River Activation and Development
    3. NRG Reuse Alternatives and Feasibility Study
  - Partner-Led Projects
    1. ShopLocalCHQ Program Phase II
- **Workforce Development**
  - Priority Projects
    1. Talent Attraction and Retention Initiative
  - Partner-Led Projects
    1. Dream It Do It Tech Career Initiative (DIDI Reimagined)
- **Infrastructure**
  - Partner-Led Projects
    1. Village of Fredonia Comprehensive Water System Evaluation
    2. Pomfret Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Study
    3. Sheridan Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Study
    4. Town of Dunkirk Wastewater Engineering Planning Study
- **Housing Development**
  - Priority Projects
    1. Housing Market Assessment and Development Plan
    2. Consolidated Code Administration and Enforcement Feasibility Study
- **Placemaking**
  - Priority Projects
    1. Dunkirk Downtown Revitalization Initiative
    2. Trail Maintenance, Marketing and Development
    3. Village of Mayville Strategic Waterfront Activation Master Plan
    4. Craft Beverage, Wine, and Ecotourism Marketing Campaign
    5. Complete Streets Projects
    6. Downtown Master plans and NY Forward Applications

### **Partner-Led Projects**

1. Tourism Branding and Marketing Campaign
2. Fredonia Opera House Seat Replacement

3. NY Main Street Restoration Project
4. The Zone
5. Barcelona Beach Hamlet Gateway
6. Findley Lake Downtown Revitalization
7. Main Street Green Space – Falconer
8. Technical Guidance on the Implementation of the Hamlet of Forestville’s Community Plans
9. Findley Lake Fire Hall Reuse Study
10. Building Connectivity and Increasing Safety: Central Avenue, Dunkirk/Fredonia
11. First Impressions 2023
12. Jamestown Goes Main Street

### **CCPEG Receives 2023 County Chamber’s Economic Development Award**

(Various Points Discussed During Review of the Annual Report)

Nate Aldrich

Obviously that \$28 million dollars (Additional grant dollars leveraged total) is an impressive number and that’s our most successful year-to-date. I did want to just mention in the last four or so years since we started the Partnership the total number that I’m more impressed about then direct funding to the Partnership is our leverage and support for other partners has brought more than \$44 million dollars to this County-that’s State, Federal and Philanthropic Resources.

Mark Geise

That otherwise would have not have come to the County from outside. (Page 11 – Business Development Work Group- Obviously, I’m going to repeat myself but this just shows how we are partnering. We’ve got the Planning Department, we’ve got the Partnership and we’ve got the IDA all working together on all of these projects. This is fairly new to this County, I think going back seven or eight years-we really started pulling together and making this happen. (Workgroups) These groups are all made up of stakeholders and have a skill set in that area. We meet quarterly and work on projects that we all agree are important to the County.

Nate Aldrich

One thing I will add, we are not going to go into a lot of depth in the interest of time but maybe every other month or quarterly we will come to you with ten minutes where we can elaborate on some of these things. I think maybe March time frame would be good for us to sort of unveil to the Board the Live Chautauqua and Choose Chautauqua Campaign. Just to note-our support of Dream It Do It-the IDA also contributed \$10,000.00. It was \$20,000.00 total.

Mark Geise

(Infrastructure)- I won’t talk about these four project but we did contribute \$14,400.00 to the Village of Fredonia to take sort of a high level look at what their options were moving forward and they worked with LaBella really to come up with the options of –do we continue to invest in their current plant and reservoir or do we do something else and they really came up with those three initiatives. We were involved in that.

Mark Geise

(Placemaking) We are helping Communities to go through the process that they really need to go through in order to identify projects that they can then apply to the state for. A lot of them don't have the skills set or the resources and we are really sort of helping them to tap into those sources of funding that they otherwise wouldn't be able to. Do you want to say anything more about that?

Nate Aldrich

(Placemaking) No. This is probably one area where we have a lot of momentum. We have a lot of irons in the fire across the county. Whether its Waterfront Activation, Downtown Revitalization-I think we sort of have this model that's proven to work where we plan, convene partners collaboratively, we find resources and we implement a variety of projects that improve our quality of life for our community, make our downtown waterfront attractions more attractive to the visitors and business investments. A lot of momentum and I think we have set the stage for further success in that area as well.

Mark Geise

Then we have what I might call a mini CFA or a local CFA where communities apply for funding that we have available- I can't remember what the total number was on it-it was like two hundred and some thousand dollars- and through a competitive process we have a review group that looks at them and then we award the funding. You can see the list of projects. (Examples listed) That's really great that we can help out these communities with these projects that are important to them. Do you want to say anything more about that Nate?

Nate Aldrich

Yeah. Again, the intent of the funds-we were able to award over \$450,000.00 last year -the same amount this year. Our primary goal is leveraging additional funds to the County so providing that critical match share requirement for our partners, the communities, municipalities-going after primarily state grants but other programs as well.

Mark Geise

Then of course in 2023 we got the County Chambers Economic Development Award which we were really flattered and appreciative to receive. Thank you Dan and your whole group there. We really appreciate that a lot. I didn't say this up front. I wanted to that Jason Sample really worked hard on this. Thank you Jason and also Ian and Sue Kellogg worked really hard on this. I think you did a really nice job. As of four or five years ago we didn't even have an Annual Report. Each year it gets a little better I think. Appreciate that.

Nate Aldrich

Mark, I know you thanked the team-I just want to send our appreciation to the entire team-obviously, Monica, Kristy, Crystal but also Rebecca and Jason I'd add Jeanette and especially Kayla to that mix as well-helping us keep upwards of six million dollars of direct funding to the Partnership since 2019-2020-all of which has very stringent reporting requirements and specified uses so a lot to keep track of. I think our team has done a great job with that. The team again -we couldn't have done it without each and every one of them but also Dan Heitzenrater is our Advisory Board Co-Chair -all of our Advisory Board Co-Chairs, which Dan DeMarte was in the past and again I think there's sixty-five total partner entities, organization, municipalities but over a 120 individuals involved in our five work groups that regularly participate, contribute and our helping us move forward with this process. A lot of work, ongoing and even more potential going forward.

Gary Henry

Very well done. Do we have a Treasurer's Report?

Rich Dixon

Next time.

Gary Henry

Do we have any Old Business to come before the Board? Hearing none do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

Dan DeMarte

So moved.

Gary Henry

Do I have a second?

Dan Heitzenrater

Second.

Gary Henry

Thank you. All in favor say Aye.

Board

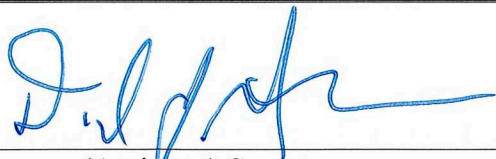
Aye – Unanimous.

Gary Henry

Opposed? The meeting is adjourned.

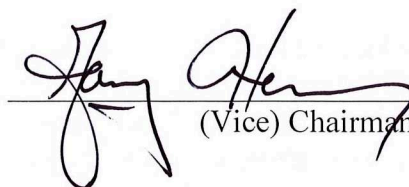
Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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(Assistant) Secretary

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(Vice) Chairman