

**New Braunfels Economic Development Corporation
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
April 15, 2021**

Minutes

The New Braunfels Economic Development Corporation April Regular Meeting was called to order on Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. by President Kathy Meurin. Meurin presented former NBEDC Director John Archer with a plaque commemorating his years of service to the corporation. Archer thanked the board and wished them success.

Present: President Kathy Meurin, Vice President Don Austin, Secretary Jim Poage, Treasurer Brian Cox, Director Kristin Carden, Director Stuart Hansmann, and Director Neal Linnartz. Cox and Poage attended virtually.

Chamber Staff: Michael Meek

City Staff: Assistant City Manager Jordan Matney, City of New Braunfels Community and Economic Development Director Jeff Jewell, City of New Braunfels Finance Director Jared Werner, City of New Braunfels Capital Programs Manager Jennifer Cain, City of New Braunfels Attorney Nathan Brown, City of New Braunfels Park Development Manager Ylida Capriccioso, and City of New Braunfels Downtown Development Coordinator Amy McWhorter.

Also present was Mayor Rusty Brockman.

Guest: Dan Krueger

The minutes from the February 23, 2021 and March 3, 2021 Special-Called Meetings were moved for approval by Linnartz with a second by Austin. The vote was 7-0 in favor.

Werner gave the Treasurer's Report that included information on February sales tax collections which despite the winter storm and shutdown were nearly equal to last year's totals. Fiscal year-to-date revenues are up 6.5%. Werner briefly reviewed projected revenues going forward to Fiscal Year 2025, current commitments, capacity for new commitments, and a financial summary with projected fund balances. Werner updated board members of the status of HB 4072 and the City and Chamber's efforts to maintain city sales tax revenues via an origin-based system. There were no questions for Werner.

Chamber President Michael Meek gave a brief Advisory Team Report that recapped the April 9 briefing.

Action Item No. 5 was a public hearing, discussion and possible action approving an expenditure of up to \$400,000 to Frantic Holdings, LLC for a project that will promote or develop new or expanded business by delivering high speed broadband infrastructure and services to downtown commercial customers. Jewell presented slides outlining background on this effort since 2015, the economic impacts, options of public-private partnerships, a project summary, and a map of the initial service area. Jewell emphasized the cost was initially over \$4 million to accomplish this. The company is providing the City a letter of credit, and any incentives are

only paid out after the company reaches certain milestones. NBEDC Broadband Consultant Al Kaufmann provided a history of the nearly six-year effort and answered questions from the board. Meurin opened the public hearing and hearing no one, closed the public hearing. Linnartz moved to approve Action Agenda Item No. 5. Hansmann seconded the motion. The vote was six in favor and one opposed. The motion was approved.

Item No. 6 was a presentation and discussion on a request from the SPARK Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Satellite Center to The University of Texas at San Antonio SBDC in New Braunfels. Jewell referred to a handout at each director's place setting outlining the activities of the center during the pandemic. SPARK SBDC President Dan Krueger spoke to the board about how the center was doing and how they are now focusing exclusively on New Braunfels and Comal County businesses after Seguin chose to pull out of the partnership in the center. Krueger stated the center had sufficient funds to operate this fiscal year despite losing a third of their funding and would be approaching the board later this year for assistance next fiscal year. Mayor Brockman commented on the success of the center as did President Meurin.

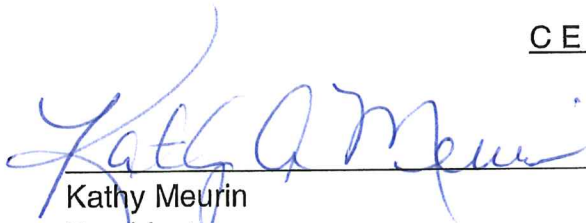
Item No. 7 was a presentation and discussion on a proposed project expenditure for the final design of a portion of the Dry Comal Creek Hike and Bike Trail. Assistant Park Director Ylida Capiscio said the trailway is envisioned as a linear park connecting neighborhoods and businesses. This will be one part of the larger Dry Comal Creek Greenway that could eventually connect to the Little League fields and Loop 337. This trail is ranked sixth out of 16 on the EDC Strategic Priorities. The packet included extensive and detailed information on the final design proposal from the engineer. The request is \$350,000 to the EDC. AAMPO will decide this August if the project will receive MPO funding. The City match is 20% or \$500,000. Following discussion, the item will be brought back at the May NBEDC meeting for action.

Item No. 8 was an update from Jewell on the EDC Strategic Priorities. Jewell went over briefly nine future projects as well as the creation of an updated unified development code.

Meurin recessed the regular meeting for Executive Session at 6:22 p.m.

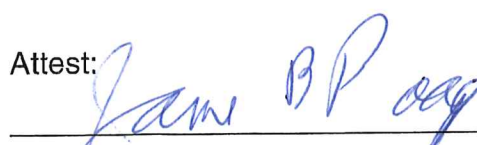
The board returned to regular session at 6:43 p.m. Meurin adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

CERTIFICATION



Kathy Meurin
President

Attest:



Jim Poage
Secretary

