



SPECIAL MEETING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD (EDAB)

Held at the Grand County Public Library
257 E Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

[Recording #1](#)

[Recording #2](#)

MINUTES

September 6th, 2023 | 11:00 AM

****Time stamps correspond to the videos****

Members in Attendance: Forrest Rodgers, Shalee Bryant, Mary McGann, Kema Johnson, Chris Wilson

Members in Attendance Remotely: Karen Guzman-Newton, Elissa Martin

Members not in Attendance: Kelly Thornton, Huseyin Deniz, Michael Black, Melisa Jeffers, Jazmine Duncan

Also Present: Colette Cox (Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity), Sky White (Grand County Economic Development), Bega Metzger (Moab to Monument Valley Film Commission), Quinn Hall (Grand County Commission Admin), Mimi Drozdetski (Economic Development AmeriCorps VISTA)

Call to Order - 11:00 AM

00:00:45

Opening Items:

- **Welcome**
00:01:30
- **Introductions**
00:01:45
- **Conflicts of Interest, disclosures, ex-parte communication**
00:04:50, none at this time
- **Citizens to -be- heard**
00:05:05, none at this time
- **Presentations, if any**
00:05:30, none at this time

Quinn Hall informed the Board that Ben Fredregill will be joining the Economic Development Department as Director with a tentative start date of 9/18/2023.

The Student Career Success Center has opened. A progress update will be provided at a future meeting date.

Discussion and Action Items:

A. Consideration of Future Agenda Items

00:07:15

Discussion included the Rural Communities Opportunity Grant. The deadline for the application is November 17th. The intent to Apply deadline is October 1.

A community walkabout meeting was scheduled last week to further explore supporting the revitalization of Main Street and the main corridor of Downtown as a project for the upcoming 2024 Rural Communities Opportunity Grant.

There was enthusiasm for supporting the City's Hot Spot Plan, specifically, items that have been cut from the plan due to funding. The plan has already gone through an engineering review and has community support. EDAB is waiting on specifics on the cut line items for consideration. More information has been requested from the City.

There was also discussion supporting the Moab Area Transit pilot program and increasing advertising to boost community awareness of the service.

The Economic Assistance Grant was announced; it closes on September 21st. EDAB was encouraged to share grant information with their extended networks. Economic Development will act as a support for companies and/or non-profits interested in applying through Letters of Support. Board members can independently support proposals with Letters of Support, and EDAB will schedule a special meeting if a project proposal arises that warrants the support of the Board as a whole.

B. EDAB Meeting Minutes - 8/23/23 *[Reference Agenda Packet for supplemental information]*

00:27:15

No discussion.

Chris makes a motion to approve the 8/23/23 Meeting Minutes.

Shalee seconds the motion.

No Discussion.

All in favor. Passes unanimously.

C. FY24 Rural County Grant Project Recommendations *[Reference Agenda Packet for supplemental information]*

00:28:00 - recording #1

00:05:05 - recording #2

During the 8/23/23 EDAB meeting the Board approved recommending \$50,000 for Moab Community Childcare and \$95,000 for the Moab Chamber of Commerce for the FY24 Rural

County Grant application. Discussion also included allocating funds to a program supporting the Student Career and Success Center.

The Moab Chamber of Commerce revised their proposal to support the administration of their proposed program. The new total for their proposal has been updated to approximately \$100,000. Discussion included the data analysis component of the proposal. Working alongside the SBDC and the EDD Strategic Planning process will be part of the Chamber's strategy.

Karen makes a motion to increase the recommendation of support for the Moab Chamber of Commerce by \$4000.

Shalee seconded Karen's original motion.

Chris discussed increasing both the Moab Community Childcare and Moab Chamber of Commerce proposal totals equally to maximize the FY24 Rural County Grant offerings.

Colette endorsed the discussion, encouraging EDAB to ensure the ROI is addressed in detail as well as the importance of asking for the maximum amount in the grant application.

Jazmine suggested via email to consider a revolving loan fund contribution.

Colette noted the grant terms require the funds to be spent within the calendar year so a revolving loan fund will likely be kicked back to the County for revision.

The Student Career and Success Center will not be providing a revised proposal for the Board's consideration.

Shalee makes a motion to recommend 2 proposals for Commission consideration to include \$125,000 for the Moab Chamber of Commerce and \$75,000 to the Moab Community Childcare.

Chris seconds the motion.

Discussion included clarifying both proposals will continue to focus on supporting the economic development of the County and the core scope of work will not change from what the Board has already reviewed and endorsed other than increasing the impact and associated dollar amount.

All in favor. Passes unanimously.

Discussion continued on the FY24 Rural Communities Opportunity Grant.

For the Downtown improvement project, EDAB continues to wait on the final Hot Spot Parking plan and to further understand what is currently being funded and what has been cut. Business

owners are excited about the opportunity and consideration is also being given to improvements that do not require UDOT participation such as sidewalk curb repair.

Karen shared that City Council members are excited to explore this.

Bringing in additional stakeholders to explore the City improvement project concept was discussed and supported. Developing a presentation for the next meeting to start the brainstorming process, and identifying key stakeholders that would benefit the project development were discussed. Representation from the City Council, City Mayor, and City Planning would all be beneficial.

Mary suggested further supporting the MAT should also be considered for this grant.

Chris suggested the Board work diligently to bring as many ideas and projects as possible to the table for consideration at the next meeting.

Adjourn

At 00:45:35, Forrest adjourned the meeting.