SPECIAL WORKSHOP
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (EOAB)
Held at Grand County Commission Chambers
125 E Center St
Moab, Utah 84532
Economic Opportunity Advisory Board - 1/28/25

MINUTES
January 28, 2025 | 10:00am
****Time stamps (HH:MM:SS) correspond to the video****

Members in Attendance: Chris Wilson, Melisa Jeffers, Melodie McCandless, Ashley Korenblat, Mark Tyner, Forrest Rodgers, Kristian Olsen, Quinn Hall, Ben Alter (filling in for Ben Fredregill)

Members in Attendance Remotely: Jazmine Duncan, Cory Shurtleff

Non-members in Attendance: Sarah Barstow, Rob Walker, Brian Martinez

Welcome
00:00:30
Introductions
00:00:50
Conflicts Of Interest, Disclosures, Ex-Parte Communication
00:03:55, none at this time
Citizens to be Heard
00:04:05, none at this time
Presentations
00:04:05, none at this time

Discussion and Action Items:

Interview Of Applicants For The Following Positions: One (1) Workforce Development Representative, Voting; Two (2) Private-Sector Representatives, Voting; One (1) Member Of The Public Who Lives In The County, Voting (00:05:15)

a. Melisa began to interview the candidates in attendance:
    i. Sarah Barstow (00:05:45)

At 00:11:30, Kristian briefly shared news on the hiring of a new Small Business Development Center (SBDC) employee.

Workshop: Prioritization Of Remaining Rural County Grant FY25 Funds ($63,500): Review Of Moab Community Childcare Proposal And Proposed Award; Review Of City Of Moab Dispersed Parking Project And Remaining Costs, Discussion Of Other Projects Proposed By Board Members (00:15:00)

a. Forrest introduced the topic. Cory provided a brief update on the dispersed parking project at the city. Ben provided context on the ask before the board. Mark shared that the chamber was deemed an ineligible recipient of grant funds because it did not have a permanent executive director in place. Forrest invited Rob to speak on Moab Community Childcare's (MCC) intended use of Rural County Grant (RCG) funds. Forrest asked for clarification on how MCC would make use of an increased RCG allocation, which Rob explained would go mostly towards the organization's planned classroom expansion. Board members asked Rob further questions. Ben and Ashley discussed the grant's reporting requirements.
b. Chris discussed the BEACON Afterschool Program for the group's consideration for funding. Melodie, Jazmine and Forrest discussed how funds could be passed along through a fiscal agent, BEACON's funding shortfalls, and the merits of the program. Ben shared other possible RCG recipients that aligned with the department's strategic plan goals and noted their successful programming and possible funding gaps.
c. Melisa introduced additional funding ideas. She suggested the board consider granting funds to the city to explore public-private partnerships that could result in a downtown activation space. She also proposed the board allocate the funds to either the economic development department (EDD) or the commission administrator's office to develop a plan that enables local businesses to build insurance and benefits programs for their staff. She noted that resources at both the Park City Chamber and Visit Utah existed to support this program. She also suggested the board consider allocating the funds to the EDD, the commission administrator's office, or some combination of the two, to research how to monetize "our outside investments and human-built infrastructure" to identify additional revenue streams and create new job opportunities within the county. She cited local expertise including EMS and search and rescue services. Her final proposal was to provide funds to the EDD to research how local businesses could collectively negotiate reasonable shipping rates or establish shared shipping centers, as shipping costs represent a major barrier to many manufacturing businesses that operate in Moab.
d. The group discussed the project proposals, including their ongoing funding needs and their feasibility considering the application timeline. Ben provided clarification on the allowable projects for the grant, noting that certain proposals discussed were not eligible. Forrest invited a motion to allocate the remaining grant funds to MCC. Mark asked if the city would be able to spend the grant funds in the time allowed, if awarded. Cory replied that the funds could be spent in the timeframe required but would be "enveloped" in the current project, rather than contribute to an expansion of scope. Melisa asked for clarification on the city's dispersed parking project's funding shortfalls and gaps, which Cory noted he was working with staff to make clear.

Possible Vote To Forward A List Of Rural County Grant Funding Recommendations To The Grand County Commission (01:27:50)

a. Chris motioned to recommend to the commission that the remainder of the RCG funds be moved to MCC's infrastructure project. Jazmine seconded the motion. Ben asked Kristian to update the board on Utah State University's (USU) plans to provide student housing. Kristian noted that these plans were in their infancy. Ben asked for clarification on Chris' motion, which Chris provided, noting MCC's original infrastructure funding request of the board and members' confidence that MCC would be able to integrate additional funding into their scope of work. Citing concerns from "feedback at several levels," Melisa voiced her concern with prioritizing MCC's funding request and suggested the board instead prioritize the city's dispersed parking project. Melisa asked Ben to share any administrative concerns surrounding the two projects, and Ben noted that both projects fit the grant criteria and would not represent a major hurdle to complete. Melodie provided insight on how the board's discussions could be part of their presentation to the commission. Forrest confirmed that Chris' motion included recommending the funding of the city's dispersed parking project, but noting that this recommendation was "secondary" to the recommendation to fund MCC. Forrest called on each member for their vote, passed unanimously.

At 01:41:00, Forrest adjourned the meeting.