

Cuyahoga County Economic Development Commission
May 20, 2022
Minutes

Meeting held remotely via Zoom with live streaming via Cuyahoga County's YouTube channel

Members Present via Zoom: County Executive Armond Budish, Brooklyn Mayor Katie Gallagher (representing the Mayors and Managers Association), Jeff Epstein (Representing Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb), Daniel O'Malley, County Councilman Jack Schron, Carl Naso (representing Port Authority President William Friedman

Executive Budish called the meeting to order shortly after 10:35 AM.
There was no public comment.

Executive Budish invited discussion of ARPA Projects and Activities

Jack Schron commented about Paul Herdeg's Sector Partnership Initiatives to the Council Committee.

Exec, Budish thanked Jack Schron for his vision

1. Becky Eby presented on County ARPA Activities

Exec. Budish stated that Becky is doing a tremendous job in managing the project. Also, state that City of Cleveland has been a great partner in making sure not to duplicate activities.
Executive Budish further discussed federal regulations for ARPA funds.

Dan O'Malley asked what the County view is on infrastructure dollars from Federal Government.

Exec. Budish stated that there are other federal funds/programs so we don't want to spend ARPA funds on expenses that can be covered by other programs

Dan O'Malley stated that other local governments are not being as strategic

Exec. Budish stated that state money and congressional earmarks are also available, and part of strategy and the County hired 2 grant writers.

2. Catherine Tkachyk presented on Broadband Access Program for Affordable internet

Exec. Budish stated the Catherine is a broadband expert. He has also spoken with Mayor Bibb regarding broadband access. City of Cleveland will be covering their own needs.

Jack Schron asked whether the broadband program will be monitored and will it be brought back to committee annually to see progress.

Catherine Tkachyk stated that they will include performance metrics in the program.

Jeff Epstein stated his appreciation of County's efforts

Exec. Budish stated that there has been an unprecedented cooperation between City, County, and State

3. Mike Foley presented on Microgrid strategy and attraction of water intensive industries

Exec Budish stated that there are large properties that could be made available (County Airport) that might not be listed in the database. We can't rely only on database for development sites

Executive Budish stated that he has spoken to Team NEO about Intel. They stated that that the County has water and reliable electric. They are interested in microgrids and enhancing our marketing to business attraction.

4. Michael Dever presented on improving access to waterfront and erosion mitigation

Paul Herdeg commented on the importance of Irishtown Bend project. If the hillside were to collapse, it would affect commerce on the river.

Jeff Epstein reiterated the importance of Irishtown Bend.

5. Mary Cierebiej Presented on Site Identification for Development

Christine Nelson states that this is a start to a strategy

Exec. Budish stated that there are large sited that might not be on lists that can be made available for large development projects. He gave an example of the County Airport. Exec. Budish also asked if this project is limited to Cuyahoga County sites.

Christine Neslon stated that TeamNeo works in the 18-county region not every county has the resources of Cuyahoga County. The Large Site Assembly initiative is important because many projects are looking at the state for large sites. We (County) don't have the available land for some of these. We need an available site database because we need to move quickly. 18+ months would be necessary to close county airport. Site selectors/companies can't wait.

Exec. Budish – stated that County airport could be closed quickly for the right project. Cuyahoga County is willing to support projects outside of Cuyahoga County if it's the right project.

Paul Herdeg – Turned the meeting back over to Exec. Budish to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02PM.