

## **Cheyenne-Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board**

### **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

February 27, 2024- 7:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting – Zoom & Cheyenne Regional Airport Board Room

4020 Airport Pkwy W Cheyenne, WY 82001

#### **Board Members in Attendance**

Shari Bremer, Secretary/Treasurer – In Person

Dr. JJ Chen – Zoom

Dave Keiter – In Person

Kevin Marquardt – Zoom

Josh Morris – In Person

Trey Rinne, Vice Chair – In Person

Mike Williams, Chair - Zoom

Charles Bloom, DDA – Zoom

Tim Bradshaw, Airport – In Person

Minden Fox, LCCC – In Person

Amy Gorby, DDA – Zoom

Betsey Hale, LEADS - Zoom

Linda Heath, Laramie County – Zoom

Kenny Overby, SBDC - Zoom

Renee Smith, City of Chey – Zoom

Amy Surdam, Grantee, Zoom

Amber Trevizio, Visit Cheyenne – In Person

Patty Walters, YMCA - Zoom

Wendy Volk, CRAFT – Zoom

#### **Others in Attendance**

Brittany Ashby, Align – In Person

Kristie Wilson, Align – In Person

Chris Brennan, WRA&B Counsel – Zoom

The regular meeting of the Cheyenne-Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board began at 7:31 a.m. with six of the seven board members present in person and via Zoom, with Trey Rinne, Vice Chair, presiding.

#### **Action Items**

The Cheyenne-Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board meeting agenda for February 27, 2024, was presented for adoption.

A Morris/Keiter motion was made and seconded to adopt the February 27, 2024, meeting agenda. The motion passed as amended unanimously.

The Cheyenne-Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board, February 27, 2024, consent agenda was presented for adoption.

A Morris/Bremer motion was made and seconded to adopt the February 27, 2024, consent agenda; January 23, 2024, meeting minutes; January 31, 2024, financials; and the February 2024 vouchers totaling \$18,812.09. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Partner and Grantee Updates**

##### **City of Cheyenne**

Councilman Rinne gave a report for the City.

##### **Laramie County**

Commissioner Linda Heath reported for the County.

##### **Airport**

Tim Bradshaw gave a quick update for the Airport. There is strong movement on the old terminal with a new restaurateur wanting to reopen Cloud 9.

##### **CRAFT**

Wendy Volk gave an update for CRAFT.

## **DDA**

Both Charles Bloom provided an update for the Downtown Development Authority.

## **LEADS**

Betsey Hale gave a report for Cheyenne LEADS and an update on legislative amendments from last night.

## **Visit Cheyenne**

Domenic Bravo gave a report for Visit Cheyenne.

## **Wyoming Business Council**

Heather Tupper gave an update for WBC and an update on the legislation from their perspective.

## **SBDC**

Kenny Overby gave an update.

## **New Business**

### **Review of Contracts**

Brittany reviewed the current contracts and payouts to date before the board votes on the next three contracts.

### **Old Business**

#### **Currie's Cuisine 2023-24 Funding Request – BOARD VOTE—No Vote**

Table to March meeting per Mike Williams.

A Morris/Bremer motion was made to table this discussion and vote until March 26, 2024.

The motion passed unanimously. Item is tabled.

#### **2720 Capitol LLC Funding Request – BOARD VOTE**

Amy Surdam presented a funding request for \$50,000 to help renovate The Bell Building which has remained an eyesore for downtown businesses for many years. Amy presented historical information on the building and the challenges they have as owners to complete the restoration.

Chen/Morris motion was made to approve funding for 2720 Capitol LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Amy Surdam appreciated giving the tour and JPB time and effort put into this project.

#### **LCCC/USDA Rural Eco Development Funding Request - BOARD VOTE**

Minden Fox presented a funding request for \$20,000 for award money towards winning high school student business ideas to help launch their business. Minden showed a photo of another program and stated that the high school version would look much like this.

A Morris/Bremer motion was made to approve funding for LCCC/USDA Rural Eco Development funding request The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Dave thinks we a subcontracting our responsibility for the contract review. Have the project approve their kids, then have the kids go thru the request just like any other business would do for a grant.

JPB is the only funder of this event. Minden suggests not making the kids wait. It takes away from the excitement. Minden said it is appropriate for our grant dollars to be specified. The high school students must do a follow-up after receiving the grant/prize. Dave feels the same requirements should be put on the students as a real-life review.

Trey suggests we review as a board before the final event – a small feasibility study and report. Brittany likes this project not just from the business aspect but for the economic development of the community workforce. Even if the initial business fails, these kids will have the skills to start another business or grow from that.

More board members than Dr. JJ Chen could be on the judging committee. Minden suggested looking at a showcase event in May. After Minden informs the board of the dates, we can show the board the materials and create a subcommittee. Mike does not want to disrupt the LCCC process but needs to have board members involved in the selection process is the way to go. Kristie and Brittany will stay in contact with Minden. Winners could give a report after the fact.

#### **Cheyenne YMCA Branch/YMCANOCO Funding Request – BOARD VOTE**

Patty Walters presented a funding request for \$50,000 to help renovate the childcare center at the Cheyenne YMCA for more capacity, resulting in hundreds of parents working and continuing educational opportunities and employing more than twenty staff persons.

A Morris/Bremer motion was made to approve funding for Cheyenne YMCA. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Brittany, as with all the grants, this one provides a key piece of need for economic development. Trying to expand childcare facilities is almost impossible. Brittany highly recommends that the board votes to approve this.

#### **Marketing RFP Update**

Brittany and Kristie gave an update on the progress of the website design. Still working on the loan application. Should be closer to finalized by the March board meeting. The next step will be creating the social media presence with the design of the website, driving the look, feel, and voice of that space.

#### **Adjourn**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 a.m. The next regular Cheyenne-Laramie County Economic Development Joint Powers Board meeting will be held on Zoom and in person at the Cheyenne Regional Airport Boardroom on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 7:30 a.m.

#### **Minutes Submitted by:**

Kristie Wilson

#### **Minutes Signed by Chair after Board approval:**

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Mike Williams, Chair  
2/27/2024

#### **Signature by Sec/Treas of Minutes Publication:**

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Shari Bremer, Secretary/Treasurer  
2/27/2024