

MINUTES
DU PAGE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PARK BOARD
February 17, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Huizenga at 8:35 a.m.

Members Present: Kathy Buettner
Gary Conkright
Michael Fortner
Avijit Ghosh (via phone)
Peter Huizenga
John Peters
Carol Potts (via phone)
Terry Van Der Aa

Members Absent: Mike Stokke

Ex Officio Member
Present: Norm Peterson, Argonne (via phone)
Tom Cuculich, DuPage County
Bob Kephart, Fermilab

Staff Present: Jack Tenison, Executive Director
Patti Miller, Executive Assistant

Other Present Pat Turner, Maurides & Foley, L.L.C.
Paul Evans, City of Geneva
David Bird, DAA
David Carlson, Fermilab
Fred Reynolds, CenterPoint Properties
David Weber, Argonne National Lab
Christy Snider, Northern Illinois University
Jerry Zielinski, Northern Illinois University

Approval of Minutes

Mbr. Fortner moved to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2008 Board meeting. Seconded by Mbr. Van der Aa. Voice vote: 8 ayes: Chairman Huizenga and Mbrs. Buettner, Conkright, Fortner, Ghosh, Peters, Potts and Van der Aa. 1 Absent: Mbr. Stokke. No nays. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Tenison stated he is continuing to work with the City of West Chicago to resolve the punch list issues to complete the transfer of public improvements to the City.

Mr. Tenison stated he has been working with DuPage County examining the possibility of funding projects that would advance the tech park's development through either the federal

stimulus funding or state capital funding. Mbr. Fortner stated he has prepared a list for his district which has included projects for the tech park.

Norm Peterson stated it looks like the state will get just under \$23 billion which is divided up into tax cuts, energy efficiency, transportation, etc. Specifically on the science side the Department of Energy's budget went up by \$1.6 billion which will have a positive impact on Argonne and Fermi. The other science accounts budgets went up significantly as well so there should be additional dollars that would flow to the research institutions in the state.

Mr. Tenison stated a payment was made to the DuPage Airport Authority in the amount of \$110,340 to pay toward previously borrowed funds to cover tech park operations. Mr. Tenison stated at the last Board meeting Chairman Huizenga suggested reviewing the loan amounts and see if the tech park could pay back some of the loan. Mr. Tenison pointed out that the tech parks only source of income is from the DuPage Airport Authority. Mr. Tenison stated the monthly Management Fee will decrease to \$46,112 per month and we will continue to pay back the outstanding previously borrowed funds as we are able.

Financial Reports

Mr. Tenison provided the Board with an update on the 2008 budget and reviewed the balance sheet as of January 31, 2009.

Chairman Huizenga stated the resolution should be amended to read "Approve 2008 Budget Transfers".

Mbr. Peters moved to approve Resolution 2009-1 "Approve 2008 Budget Transfers as Amended" Seconded by Mbr. Van der Aa. Voice vote: 8 ayes: Chairman Huizenga and Mbrs. Buettner, Conkright, Fortner, Ghosh, Peters, Potts, and Van der Aa. 1 absent: Mbr. Stokke. No nays. Motion carried.

Report Regarding Site Review of Peoria Incubator

Mbr. Conkright stated February 6, 2009 he along with Mbr. Buettner, Mbr. Fortner, Jack Tenison and David Bird went to Peoria to tour the Peoria NEXT Innovation Center. Mbr. Conkright stated the building is 48,000 sf with room for twenty-two start up companies, about half of it is wetlabs and the other half is office space. The incubator is about two years old and cost approximately \$13.5 million to construct. Jim McConoughy, Heartland Partnership hosted the day. Mbr. Conkright stated the company he leads, InformMed was the first tenant in the building and they are still there. Mbr. Conkright stated the Heartland Partnership team were extremely forthcoming and shared openly their experience building the incubator. Mbr. Conkright suggested that Jim McConoughy come here to speak to the rest of the Board as well as other civic leaders.

Mbr. Buettner stated the group learned a lot during their visit to Peoria and agreed with Mbr. Conkright that it is important to have Mr. McConoughy come here to talk to the appropriate people. We have a lot of work to do before we get to the incubator stage and we need to build and establish an eco system. It took seven years for Peoria NEXT to open their doors.

Mr. Tenison stated the Department of Commerce provided a substantial amount of funding to Peoria NEXT and this might be a path that we think about taking.

Chairman Huizenga asked Mbrs. Buettner and Conkright to put together their ideas on what we need to do in DuPage County and compare them to the Peoria model.

Mbr. Potts left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Proposed State Legislation-Innovation Zones

Mr. Tenison stated he has been working with DuPage County on potential state legislation that would offer incentives that might be useful to help the tech park grow as well as the area. What has been suggested is the creation of Innovation Zones focused on ideas and concepts enhancing technology. Mr. Tenison stated they are trying to contact the Executive Directors of the other seven technology parks in Illinois to discuss this piece of legislation and see if they have any proposed changes or suggestions. Mr. Tenison stated the resolution is before the Board to support this piece of legislation.

Mbr. Buettner moved to approve Resolution 2009-2 "Approve Proposed Legislation re Illinois Innovation Zones" Seconded by Mbr. Van der Aa. Roll call vote: 6 ayes: Chairman Huizenga and Mbrs. Buettner, Conkright, Ghosh, Peters, and Van der Aa. 1 abstain: Mbr. Fortner. 2 absent: Mbrs. Potts and Stokke. No nays. Motion carried.

DuPage County Minority Entrepreneur Conference/SBA Grant Update

Christy Snider, Northern Illinois University gave a brief overview of the DuPage County Minority Entrepreneur Conference (DCMEC). Ms. Snider stated the conference is part of an overall comprehensive effort to support and raise awareness to minority based businesses in DuPage County. DCMEC will be held at the NIU/Naperville campus on Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 7:00 a.m. The event is free but attendees are required to register in advance. The conference will be a series of breakout sessions regarding different topics and issues for both new and existing businesses. There will also be a keynote speaker, Rhonda Abrams who is a syndicated columnist as well as an author of many business publications about starting new businesses and bringing a business to the next level. Ms. Snider stated following the conference a business assistance team will assess individual needs of those who attended the event and either own or would like to launch a minority or woman owned business in DuPage County. In an effort to leverage existing resources and avoid duplication of services, the team will assess each business and make a determination as to whether there are existing resources which could help support the entrepreneur's needs or those in need of additional assistance will be encouraged to attend additional training in the form of a free course or workshop. The course or workshop will provide more in depth training based on the business' stage of development.

Request for Proposals for Strategic Plan for the Park

Mr. Tenison stated he is seeking the Board's authorization to seek proposals to provide a comprehensive assessment of the park's status, addressing the strengths and barriers to success, the strategies for addressing those issues and an action plan on how to proceed in addressing those questions and concerns.

The Board discussed the merits of a comprehensive review.

Mbr. Peters stated the Board should have a meeting devoted to brainstorming about what they think the role and mission of the tech park should be and then seek proposals for a comprehensive assessment of the park. Mbr. Peters stated there are people at Northern Illinois University that are outstanding at facilitating this type of meeting and he volunteered these services to the tech park. Executive Director Tenison was directed to work with Dr. Peters and the NIU facilitators in establishing a Tech Board retreat.

Other Business

Kathy Buettner gave an update regarding the Proton Center. Mbr. Buettner stated the project has slowed down because of the lack of capital. The fact that a second facility was awarded six miles away has not helped the situation. Mbr Buettner stated they are in the process of restructuring the financials to be marketable in this kind of environment. They hope to be in a position to raise funds by selling bonds in the 3rd Quarter of 2009.

Adjournment

With no further business remaining before the Board, Chairman Huizenga moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Seconded by Mbr. Peters. Voice vote: 7 ayes: Chairman Huizenga and Mbrs. Buettner, Conkright, Fortner, Ghosh, Peters, and Van der Aa. 2 absent: Mbr. Potts and Stokke. No nays. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Patti Miller