

Whitewater University Technology Park Board
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Campus
James R. Connor University Center Room 261
Minutes for April 13, 2009

1. **Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by President Telfer. Members present: Ronald Gayhart, Peter Zaballos, John Chenoweth, Kevin Brunner, Jeff Knight and Richard Telfer. Absent: Patrick Singer. Others present: Mary Nimm, Jim Caldwell, Tom Grosinske, and Denise Ehlen.

2. **Approval of March 12, 2009 and March 25, 2009 Minutes.**

The approval of minutes was postponed until the next meeting of the board.

3. **Request for Architectural Services**

Brunner requested that the board authorize the solicitation of architectural services for the proposed innovation center. During the discussion on this item, the board requested that the city attorney be asked to provide a legal opinion on what might be the best ownership of the proposed Whitewater innovation center i.e. CDA ownership, City ownership, or Tech Park board ownership. Brunner indicated that he would meet with the city attorney and hopefully have a report from him on this issue in time for consideration at the next meeting.

Zaballos indicated that he would be willing to draft a one page outline for the innovation center concept that could be included in the solicitation for architectural services.

Brunner was directed to solicit a request for qualifications from architectural services. A team of Chenoweth, Knight and Gayhart was appointed to review the responses to the request for qualifications from architectural firms.

4. **Updates from Working Groups**

a. Business Plan

Gayhart indicated that there had not been much progress made on the business plan but that with potential financing looming for the innovation center and the park itself that this business plan will need to be completed in the next several weeks.

b. Competencies

Telfer indicated that the University was still working on the draft of the competencies report and that something would be forthcoming in the near future.

c. Land

Brunner indicated that discussions on the option on the Hoffman property were still ongoing and that the Southeast Regional Planning Commission was scheduled to be on site at the Hoffman property in the next week to further delineate the wetland areas on the property.

d. Infrastructure

Brunner indicated that there had not been any further progress on design of infrastructure pending the securing of the option and the further wetland delineation.

e. Financing

No report.

f. Occupancy

No report.

g. Grants

Gayhart indicated that there is potential to apply for a Department of Commerce grant for the innovation center (business incubator program) and that there continue to be other potential grant programs to assist in the development of the park. Both Gayhart and Denise Ehlen continue to monitor potential federal funding sources for the development of the technology park.

h. Fiber

Mary Nimm reported on a meeting held on April 7 at the Whitewater Municipal Center of interested parties for the Whitewater Dark Fiber Initiative. Representative Kim Hixson continues to press for potential federal and state funding for this project and there is strong interest not only from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and the City of Whitewater for this project, but also from the City of Fort Atkinson and the Whitewater Unified School District. In addition, other potential partners in this project include the City of Jefferson, Jefferson County, Jefferson School District, Fort Atkinson School District, Fort Health Care and the Madison Area Technical College.

During discussion of this item, the board requested that city attorney McDonell assist the board with the evaluation of the potential legal framework and organizational structure for the Whitewater Broadband Initiative. Brunner indicated that he would discuss this with the city attorney. However, most likely we would engage attorney Hank Gempeler of the Madison office of Foley and Lardner because of his expertise in municipal utilities and municipal organization.

The Dark Fiber Initiative will continue to be a very important project to benefit not only the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater but also the planned Whitewater University Technology Park.

Grosinske of the Whitewater Unified School District also informed the board that the district was looking for the potential of a charter school at the innovation center and was looking at charter school models and potential funding sources.

5. **Adjournment to Closed Executive Session**

It was then moved by Chenoweth, seconded by Knight to adjourn to closed executive session per Wisconsin State Statute 19.85(1)(e), to deliberate or negotiate the purchase of

public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. AYES: Brunner, Chenoweth, Gayhart, Knight, Telfer, Zaballos. NOES: None. ABSENT: Singer.

The meeting was adjourned to closed executive session at approximately 2:25 pm. During the closed session the acquisition of potential sites for the Whitewater Technology Park was discussed.

6. **Reconvene to Open Session**

It was then moved by Knight, seconded by Gayhart to reconvene to open session. AYES: Brunner, Chenoweth, Gayhart, Knight, Telfer, Zaballos. NOES: None. ABSENT: Singer. The meeting was reconvened to open session at approximately 2:50 pm.

The next meeting of the Whitewater Technology Park Board of Directors was scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 12:30 pm in Room 261 at the Conner University Center

7. **Adjournment**

It was then moved by Chenoweth, seconded by Knight, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Brunner, Secretary