



OPEN BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Friday, December 2, 2022  
8:30 a.m.  
Zoom

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<b>Present:</b>	Chris Savard, Chair	Kevin Laforet, Sec/Treasurer	Alex Anobile	Robert Gordon
	Waseem Habash	Kyrsten Solcz		
<b>Regrets:</b>	Mayor Dilkens	Paul Mastronardi	Federica Nazzani	
<b>Staff:</b>	Stephen MacKenzie, President & CEO	Holly Connelly	Sabrina DeMarco	Joe Goncalves
	Matt Johnson	Wendy Stark		
<b>Regrets:</b>	Gina Meret-Dybenko			

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER & DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The meeting was called to order at 8:42 a.m. by Chris Savard, Chair and quorum was met. No conflict of interest was declared.

### 2. AGENDA

The agenda for the open meeting of Invest WindsorEssex Board of Directors was provided.

Motion Moved by Alexandria Anobile  
Seconded by Kyrsten Solcz

*That the agenda for the December 2, 2022, meeting of Invest WindsorEssex Board of Directors is approved. Carried.*

### 3. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3.1 Minutes – Open Board Meeting
- 3.2 Monthly Performance Measures and Metrics
- 3.3 Top Business Priorities

Motion Moved by Kyrsten Solcz  
Seconded by Kevin Laforet

*THAT the consent agenda and the recommendations therein, is approved. Carried.*

### 4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

#### 4.1 Chair's Report

Chris Savard noted he is taking on the role of Chair and recognized Tom Bain for doing a great job in the role of Chair for a number of years and looks forward to working with the CEO and the IWE team.

Motion Moved by Waseem Habash  
Seconded by Alexandria Anobile

*THAT the Chair's report is received. Carried.*

#### 4.2 CEO's Report

- a. Brief Remarks from Department Heads

### **Small Business and Entrepreneurship Centre (SBEC) – Sabrina DeMarco**

- All grants have been allocated for the fiscal year
- Digital Mainstreet 4.0 team continues to assist businesses who are completing applications for the current round of digital transformation grants with over 80 grants approved in the region with 10 more expected by year-end
- WES hosted an access to capital webinar led by local Angel Investor Network geared towards start-ups and expanding businesses
- SBEC 30th Anniversary event with guest speaker Kevin Harrington well-attended by local businesses, St. Clair College and the University of Windsor
- Participated in the municipal council orientation session, showcasing SBEC services, resources and programs
- SBEC was recognized as an Outstanding Community Champion by the Association of Fundraising Professionals during National Philanthropy Day

### **Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) – Wendy Stark**

- Emerging Technologies and Automation event saw positive feedback from attendees
- Increased company visits over the last few months, staff hearing multiple concerns about labour availability, particularly skilled trades
- Staff is compiling a list of programs available to employers to assist
- Working on Windsor Essex Career Apprenticeship program in collaboration with the University of Windsor and Canadian Career Apprenticeship Initiative to provide funding incentives of \$10,000 to employers to hire new graduates from the University of Windsor's Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Services with an employer information session planned for January 17, 2023
- Working with the City of Windsor and others on a project to establish a green economy hub in Windsor Essex to help companies set and achieve greenhouse gas emissions targets

### **Automobility & Innovation Centre (AIC) – Matthew Johnson**

- AIC team - designated as the digital twin partner with Project Arrow, developing and building out an augmented reality app to complement the physical build of the vehicle to be displayed at CES in early 2023 allowing IWE to highlight local companies who provided components or parts to the physical vehicle
- Working on the OVIN initiative with 29 companies at various project stages
- Regional Future Workforce application submitted to in partnership with St. Clair College aiming to engage younger demographics (grades 5-9) in mobility-based careers leveraging the FIRST Robotics network in Windsor Essex
- Created a digital test track ready for simulation and testing in partnership with Area X.0, the physical test site in Ottawa and will be working with the companies on site to provide a complimentary simulation service to their companies in the VR cave
- Partnership with Electric Autonomy looking at hosting large auto cybersecurity events with the goal at hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> event in Windsor Essex
- Re-engaging with the Israeli Innovation Alliance to work with their start-ups and have connections to companies in WindsorEssex and allow IWE to promote WindsorEssex to companies to open offices in Canada

### **Investment Attraction (IA)- Joe Goncalves**

- Currently have 15 active files with 62 open files
- Plan to attend the Battery Show in Korea

- Meeting with companies who would like to service the battery factory

**Marketing and Communications (MKTG) – Stephen MacKenzie on behalf of Gina Meret-Dybenko**

- Automobility Capital of Canada campaign is ongoing
- Supporting Intelligence Transportation Systems Canada Conference to be held in region in June 2023
- Working to integrate a digital analytics platform into the IWE website to provide in depth data on each site visitor to allow for more targeted follow-up with prospective FDI clients

Motion Moved by Robert Gordon  
Seconded by Alexandria Anobile

*THAT the updates provided in the CEO's Report are received. Carried.*

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**6. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Invest WindsorEssex Board of Directors will be held on February 3, 2023.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Moved by Kevin Laforet  
Seconded by Robert Gordon

That the open meeting be adjourned at 9:04 a.m. Carried.