



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes

Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA)

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/
Calendar.aspx](http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

Friday, June 5, 2020

11:00 AM

Electronic Meeting

**Special LDFA Board Meeting - Members of the public may speak during Public
Comment: Call - US: + 1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or Toll
Free - 888 788 0099 - Meeting ID: 979 7794 6879**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rapundalo called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Meeting was held electronically via Zoom

II. ROLL CALL

Andy LaBarre join at 11:13 a.m.

Present: 8 - Caryn Charter, Carrie Leahy, Stephen Rapundalo, Phil Tepley, Heather Grisham, Ali Ramlawi, Michele Mueller, and Andy LaBarre

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Public comment shall be allowed at all meetings. An individual may speak for up to three (3) minutes on any item listed on the Agenda. The Chair may extend an individual's speaking time in his/her discretion. Public comment on non-agenda items may be limited in the Chair's discretion.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Treasurer Charter, seconded by Councilmember Ramlawi, that the agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, Chair Rapundalo declared the motion carried.

V. DISCUSSION - EDA GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Horning presented a grant opportunity from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) stating that the CARES Act increased funding to the EDA and they are using the funding to create grant opportunities

around the country. The key component of the CARES Act is that prior to COVID-19, EDA funding was focused on distressed areas and opportunity zones. The City of Ann Arbor and many areas in Washtenaw County did not qualify for the funding. Because of COVID-19, all communities across the United States are eligible to apply for EDA funding.

SPARK has been in touch with the EDA regional office in Michigan and based on their discussion, it is recommended that the Ann Arbor Region apply for a minimum of \$3 million and provide a 20% match to ensure that we have the most competitive application and open the door for potential future funding opportunities.

The overall grant of \$3 million is to build out a fiber infrastructure backbone that currently does not exist. We are looking to expand the LDFA's high speed fiber broadband network by connecting the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti LDFA's jurisdiction via the Washtenaw Avenue corridor, Ypsilanti downtown district and running out to the mobility center in Ypsilanti. We are working now to secure resolutions with City of Ann Arbor, City of Ypsilanti, and Ypsilanti and Pittsfield Townships that will support the grant application for the process.

If the backbone is running along these corridors it would bring a value that currently does not exist and be able to bring in other ISPs and expand the desirability for tech companies, providers and vendors which would provide more competition in the marketplace.

The LDFA is asked to commit to \$600,000 that would be a match to the federal request. The action is not to approve the grant, but to authorize the submission of an application for the grant. Given that action, action from Council on June 15, 2020, and similar actions from the city of Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township, and Ypsilanti Township, SPARK can proceed with the application process.

Joe Meyers from Ypsilanti said the City of Ypsilanti supports the project and believes it would be beneficial to all the regions. Andy LaBarre speaking for Washtenaw County agreed.

20-0818 EDA Grant Information and Application

Attachments: Background on EDA Grant for LDFA.pdf, EDA General Application.pdf, Magellan Advisors Proposal - Ann Arbor EDA Grant High-Level Design.pdf

A motion was made by Treasurer Charter, seconded by Councilmember Ramlawi, to recommend approval for SPARK to be the lead partner and submit an application for the EDA grant of up to \$3M and approve a \$15,000 preliminary engineering report, recommend that City of Ann Arbor council support the application process, and that the LDFA appropriate \$600,000 in matching funds appropriated from the strategic initiative grant line items in the amount of \$400,000 and the from the Tech Park Fiber grant in the amount of \$200,000 subject to confirmation by MEDC that we can proceed. On a roll call, the vote was as follows with Chair Rapundalo declaring the motion carried:

Yeas: 9 - Treasurer Charter, Leahy, Chair Rapundalo, Sorrell, Ypsilanti City Rep. Tepley, Vice Chair Grisham, Councilmember Ramlawi, Washtenaw Community College Rep. Mueller, and Washtenaw County Rep. LaBarre

Nays: 0

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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