



**ROCKVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC.
INCENTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

September 26, 2023, 11:00 a.m.
VIA Webex Meeting

Committee Attendees: LaVonne Torrence Berner, Ken Sonner, Ben Anstrom, Laurie Boyer Babb, Susan Prince

Absent: Alton Henley

Staff: Richelle Wilson, Martha Jimenez

I. Welcome and Introduction - Call to Order 11:02 AM

II. Discussion Items

a. Introduction

b. Operational Items:

i. Approval of Minutes:

- 1. ACTION: Ms. Babb motioned approval of the 7.7.23 minutes and was seconded by Mr. Anstrom. Ms. Prince abstained, and the vote was passed by the committee.**

III. Review the Small Business Impact Fund Rubric

Ms. Wilson discussed the edits submitted by committee members. Members agreed that some sections could be combined and removed. that Ms. Wilson would incorporate all suggestions discussed and send them out with the next set of applications. The committee also agreed to review the agreement structure for the Small Business Impact Fun in a future meeting.

IV. Discussion on industry focus and square footage minimum for grants

- Ms. Wilson asked how the committee should address cannabis-oriented companies applying for REDI grants. MS. Babb mentioned that Montgomery County Economic Development received direction from the State that all minority and small business owners cannot be denied on the basis of being a cannabis business. Ms. Prince suggested that REDI defer to the City attorney for this matter since the funds come from the City.
- Ms. Wilson brought up to the committee that the minimum square footage for retail applicants applying for the MOVE and Expansion grants should be 500 square feet. Ms. Wilson mentioned that due to the nature of the industry, the current minimum square footage of 1,000 square feet could prevent a substantial amount of applicants.

ACTION: Ms. Babb motioned to vote on a square footage minimum of 500 square feet for retail applicants for the MOVE and Expansion program. Ms. Prince seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously by the committee.

Next Meeting TBD