

**Prosperity Index Committee**  
**Monday, June 12th, 2017**  
**Hagerty Center, Traverse City, MI**

**Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Tim Nelson; Mike Groleau; Eric Bachmann; Richard Schmidt; Marsha Smith; Michael Cain; Ed Boettcher

**Committee members absent:** Ken Osborne; Joe Moch; Clint Steele; Doug Luciani; John Stephenson; Doug Mansfield; Jaime Al-Shamma; Alan Cooper

**Staff present:** Anne Helbig, Matt McCauley, Sarah Lucas

**Guests:** Gary Fedus

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Committee Chair, Tim Nelson at 4:14 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the April committee meeting was made by Marsha Smith, seconded by Michael Cain. Motion approved.

**Business Development Discussion**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economy Report was released last week. Tim gave an overview of the results of that report. The goal of the strategies in the report is to create prosperity for every person in Michigan. Tim provided an overview of the key outcomes identified in the report. The report also identified that housing and child care are key issues to addressing the talent need. The committee discussed the readings provided ahead of time. There are 4 different strategies identified in the readings and each has pros and cons to them. There is no silver bullet when it comes to business development. It was suggested that creating an asset map of existing businesses and of business development activities in the region would be helpful. Comments and discussion addressed businesses' need for talent, capital, and infrastructure. Additional comments included: We should be able to attract talent to this region. We need to leverage the resources we have. We are lucky to have the organizations we do in our region, such as Networks Northwest and the Chamber and others, to use as resources. Having a good planner helps too. We need to think about the future and take risks.

**Housing Discussion**

Housing is complex and connected to our workforce, aging population, and demographics. It will be the topic for the August board meeting. The committee identified three areas to explore in that discussion. The committee agreed that there is general acceptance and awareness of the housing issue. The committee agreed to focus on the barriers that exist for solving the housing issues in our region, costs of construction, and community perception.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Anne Helbig*

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