

MINUTES

Whitewater University Technology Park

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Whitewater University Technology Park Innovation Center

1221 Innovation Drive, Whitewater, WI 53190

PRESENT: Beverly Kopper, Jessica Bonjour, Kevin Brunner, Cameron Clapper, John Chenoweth, Bud Gayhart, Mark Johnson, Jeff Knight, Richard Moyses, Nathaniel Parrish, Crystal Singer

EXCUSED: Christopher Grady

GUESTS: Pat Cannon, William Dougan, Doug Saubert, and Kristen Burton

1. **Call to Order:** With a Quorum present, Kopper called the meeting to order at 8:02 am.
2. **Guest Speaker:** Mark Johnson invited Dr. William Dougan, Launch Pad Co-Director and Professor of Management at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, to discuss Blackthorne's Analytics Data Science Institute. The Institute was funded by a Department of Workforce Development Fast Forward Grant and support from the Community Development Authority. The Data Science Institute was implemented to support the development of Wisconsin firms that need algorithmic data analytics. There are insufficient skilled data scientists in the Midwest; they tend to be concentrated on the coasts. The demand for skilled talent could be 50-60% greater than the supply by 2018.

The Data Science Institute ran from June 2nd – July 17th, for 32 hours per week, 4 days a week. Participants were paid to attend. The Institute is project-oriented and clients are organized around the projects. There are four basic components of project management addressed by the Institute: how to manage acquisitions, algorithms and modeling, applications and outcomes, and software tools and platforms. The Institute used texts that made the bridge between algorithmic science and practical business application. Instructors included primarily UW-Whitewater faculty, some visiting faculty, and some from industry like Peter Layton, Scott Morris, and Ed Karrells. Of the Data Science Institute attendees, some moved from part-time to full-time employment, some were full-time in summer and obtained internships for the fall. Of the thirteen students that participated in the program, Blackthorne hired four. Two were Extended Care Professional employees, and one was from Ireland. Jeff Knight advised tracking the student placements; the data will be useful for the next funding round.

Other outcomes included increased contacts with business organizations, increased student recruitment, benefits for UW-Whitewater's Computer Science Department in the development of its Master's curriculum and application for grants from the National Science Foundation, and Blackthorne's methods are the focus of a Computer Science research paper.

3. **Approval of Minutes of June 17, 2015 Meeting:** Knight/Moyse moved to approve the June meeting minutes as presented. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

4. **Review/Acceptance of June 2015 Financial Reports:** Chenoweth/Moyse moved to approve the June 2015 Financial Reports. Saubert indicated that at six months into the budget, funds are looking good. Johnson provided his projections and noted that there are some anomalies, but he will discuss these with Saubert. Projected building rents come in a little over what was originally budgeted, around \$237,000 - \$238,000. Operationally, the Innovation Center is about 2% over due to the pump repairs. Saubert added that the pump/boiler is covered by insurance, but there is a \$5,000 deductible, so it is a sizeable hit. The pilot payment is on target for the entire \$92,500 accrual this year. Utilities are a bit high; Johnson believes it has to do with payment to AT&T for internet availability. The NAMI contract for preventative maintenance seems to be on target and janitorial services are fine. Johnson noted that building supplies costs are way under projection, as is grounds maintenance; he will review these areas. There is a large surplus in Marketing expenses, but it will be spent. The entire budget is at approximately 41% of the total. Rents are at \$227,000, and in-kind contributions at \$220,000. Johnson can demonstrate that the Innovation Center is currently operating in the black. He cautioned that opportunities for rent increases at this point is from adding more companies to smaller, shared spaces. Brunner added that CESA 2's financial intake is somewhat reduced due to competition, but Gary Albrecht is not concerned and is still comfortable in the space. The motion to approve the financial reports was approved by a unanimous vote.

5. **Director's Report:** Johnson reported that the only significant item was the mechanical issue with the pump. Singer/Brunner moved to approve the Director's Report. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

6. **Common Council Representative:** Clapper reported that Christopher Grady remains the Common Council Representative to the Whitewater University Technology Park Board for the moment, but he will be unable to attend any of the meetings. The Council will readdress this issue at the August 4th meeting, and he will likely step down.

7. **Common Council October Meeting Presentation:** Clapper indicated the Whitewater University Technology Park Board presentation will likely occur at the second meeting in October, October 20th. The presentation will include the operational budget and an update on the progress of the Innovation Center. Kopper, Clapper, and Johnson will meet to further discuss the presentation.

8. **Board of Regents Meeting Thursday September 10th:** The University of Wisconsin Board of Regents will meet at UW-Whitewater September 10th and 11th. The reception will be held at the Innovation Center on September 10th from 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm and will provide an opportunity to showcase the center and its tenant companies. UW-System personnel and other chancellors will attend as well. Kopper asked the Board members to add it to their calendars. Johnson is working with Sara Kuhl on details and developing the presentation. Alums of the entrepreneurship program like Henry Schwartz of MobCraft and Joe Scanlin of Scanalytics will be invited.

9. **Verification of Signed By-Laws on File:** Johnson reported that the Whitewater University Technology Park Board by-laws have been signed and there are four copies on file in the following offices: 1) Chancellor's Office 2) Whitewater Community Development Authority 3) City of Whitewater and 4) Innovation Services.

10. **Pursuit of EDA Grant:** Cannon, Gayhart, Johnson, and Harrigan will meet on July 23rd to review available grants. At the last discussion, did the Board decide to pursue a publically-owned building, or only a privately-owned building? The last conversation with Chancellor Telfer resulted in a decision to pursue parallel paths. There will be further discussion on this topic in closed session. Knight indicated the Community Development Authority has prioritization on the agenda for this evening's meeting.

11. **Adjourn to Closed Session** per Wisconsin Statute §19.85(1)(e) "Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session."

Gayhart/Moyse moved to enter into closed session. Kopper indicated that a roll call vote was not necessary due to the informal nature of the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously, and the Board went into Closed Session. Items discussed:

- A. **Update on Prospective Clients/Tenants and Available Space:**
Cannon, Gayhart, and Johnson gave updates on prospective clients and tenants.

- B. **Technology Park Development Update:**
Cannon, Gayhart, and Johnson gave updates on the Technology Park development.

Knight/Gayhart moved to return to open session with the intent/option to take action. The motion passed unanimously. The Board returned to open session with the intent/option to take action.

12. **Future Agenda Items:** Future agenda items include: Headhunters for building occupancy (Cannon), Marketing Plan (Johnson – in lieu of a guest speaker)

13. **Future Meeting Dates:** The spring meeting schedule is under development, but the third Wednesday at 8:00 am appears to work best for most members. Remaining fall dates are: August 26th, September 30th, October 28th, November 18th, and December 16th. Kopper has a conflict with December 16th; the meeting may be rescheduled to December 15th or December 17th. Please let her know if you have any concerns about the schedule.

14. **Adjournment:** Clapper/Moyse moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Burton for Cameron Clapper
Secretary of the Whitewater University Technology Park Board

