

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 P.M. on January 24, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Ron Worley- excused

Committee staff present:  
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ryan Hoffman, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Matt Todd, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Ann Deitcher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Stan Ahlerich - Kansas, Inc.

The Chair introduced Stan Ahlerich who offered testimony that highlighted the vision, missions, strategies and recommendations formulated during the Strategic Planning process. (Attachment 1).

He explained that the Plan was a result of a yearlong process, driven by sound, fundamental research and tested with business input throughout the state.

Copies were distributed of the 2007 Kansas Economic Development Strategic Plan. (Attachment 2). Mr. Ahlerich stressed the importance of paying attention of the existing businesses in Kansas, saying that in order to retain these businesses there was a need of giving them the same incentives for remaining in the state as those offered to businesses we are encouraging to come to the state.

A research report of Indicators of the Kansas Economy (IKE) were distributed. (Attachment 3).

Also provided, were copies of and evaluation of the Kansas Department of Commerce prepared for Kansas, Inc. by the Institute for Policy & Social Research of the University of Kansas. (Attachment 4).

Mr. Ahlerich said that the evaluation reached three basic conclusions.

First, they found a preponderance of evidence that Commerce business assistance programs were achieving their stated mission.

Second, was that Commerce's organizational capacity was eroding, which might jeopardize its ability to achieve that mission in the future.

Third, evidence was found of a growing incongruence between the programs and assistance Commerce offers, and the state's economic development needs.

Questions and answers followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 28, 2008.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Economic Development and Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on in Room 519-S of the Capitol.