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## Marengo Economic Development Commission (MEDC)

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### Commission Members

Chairman, Hank DeBoer (09)	Rocco Gailloreto (10)	Kathy Meyer (10)
Vice Chairman, Harvey Meyers (11)	Bill Kays (11)	Jerry Trickett (09)
James Carmichael (10)	Ross Kitchen (09)	John Wyrostek (11)
Nick Carroccia (11)	Carl Martens (11)	

### Ex Officio Members

Don Lockhart, Mayor of Marengo

Michael Haley, Interim Administrator

### Staff

David L. Ross, Economic Development Coordinator

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#### Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting:

**Date:** November 18, 2008

**Time:** 7:30 AM

**At:** Flatlander Market

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Chairman DeBoer called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

Commissioner(s) Carmichael, Kays, Meyer, Meyers, and Trickett were recorded as absent. All other members were present. Also in attendance were Mayor Lockhart, Assistant City Administrator Blakemore, Alderman Smith, Main Street Director Gitta, and EDC Consultant Chris Manheim.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Wyrostek, seconded by Commissioner Martens, to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2008 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

Chairman DeBoer announced that the City and EDC have entered into an open ended contractual agreement with Chris Manheim for services. Chris was formerly the Executive Director of McHenry County EDC. Under the terms of the agreement, Chris (Manheim Solutions, Inc.) will provide 20 hours/month for a fixed fee of \$1,000. Any additional hours, if needed, will be billed at \$75.00/hour. EDC is very fortunate to have the services of Chris, his knowledge of the McHenry County business environment, extensive network of ED contacts, and his commitment to assist the Marengo EDC in its business retention and expansion efforts. Chris will immediately begin working with Coordinator Ross to make business contacts and follow up on projects in process.

Chairman DeBoer indicated that Marengo EDC had made a strong effort to recruit the McHenry County Foundation project that included new fairgrounds and baseball/athletic fields. Due to contractual agreements, the project could not be located this close to Rockford which currently hosts a minor league baseball team.

Chairman DeBoer and Mayor Lockhart discussed the ongoing TIF designation and area annexation projects. The City will make arrangements to have a joint City/EDC informational presentation on TIFs. The City and EDC are continuing efforts to accomplish the annexation of the Arnold Engineering properties to the west. They are also working with landowners to accomplish annexation to the south along IL-23.

Commissioner Carroccia and Coordinator Ross will continue to work with Cindi Carrigan on the development of a new EDC website. The project has experienced some delays due to Coordinator Ross being on extended medical leave.

Commissioner Martens commented on the status of extended medical leave for Coordinator Ross. It is hoped that Ross can return to his regular part-time schedule (about 20-25 hours per week) in about 3-4 months. If his condition does not improve by that time, the EDC will begin to look for a replacement.

Commissioner Martens indicated that the Business Recruitment, Retention & Expansion (BRRE) Committee plans to commence informational and assistance visits with major businesses after the first of the year.

Main Street Director Gitta updated the Commission on the various improvement projects underway in the downtown area. A number of building and business owners are in the process of painting, tuck-pointing, and other overall façade improvements. Main Street has garnered support from a number of business/building owners to remove the old-style awning from the east side of the 100 block of State Street as soon as weather permits.

Mayor Lockhart provided an update and comments on a number of projects, including the dismantling of the awning mentioned above, the contractual arrangements with Manheim Solutions Inc., the annexation projects, the planned TIF district on East Grant Highway, and cooperative efforts between the City of Marengo and the McHenry County Conservation District.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 am.

The next meeting will be 7:30 am, Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at Flatlander Market.

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