

CHEEKTOWAGA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CEDC Board of Directors Meeting
September 16, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
Cheektowaga Town Hall

Board of Directors

Attending

Robert Lowery, President
Ethan Ruot, Vice President / Treasurer
Richard Willis, Secretary
David Tytko
Joseph Dietrich

Excused: Derek Kane

Resource Personnel and Guests in Attendance

Mike Thomas, Attorney, The Harrison Studio
Rachel Straker, Director, Community Development
Dale Marie Parks, Planner, Community Development

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by President Robert Lowery. It was noted that a quorum was present.

Appointment of New Director

Motion by: Ethan Ruot
Seconded by: Richard Willis
Motion: To appoint Brittany Celotto (M&T Bank) to a three-year term on the Board of Directors.
Term expiring May 31, 2030
Vote: Ayes 5; Nays 0; Abstentions 0.

Organizational Reports:

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were provided to the Board prior to the meeting. There were no corrections or modifications suggested.

Motion by: Joseph Dietrich
Seconded by: David Tytko
Motion: To approve the minutes as presented.
Vote: Ayes 5; Nays 0; Abstain 0.

Acceptance of Financial Reports:

Ethan Ruot read the financial report for the quarterly period April 1, 2026 – June 31, 2026. The report was provided to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting.

Motion by: Joseph Dietrich
Seconded by: Richard Willis
Motion: To accept the quarterly financial report as presented.
Vote: Ayes 5; Nays 0; Abstain 0.

Status Reports:

Prospective Loans:

Mike Thomas from The Harrison Studio provided an update on the prospective loans for First Friends Daycare to the Board.

Rachel Straker provided an update on the Maryvale East Senior Housing project.

Review of Existing Loans and Payment Status – Rachel, Town of Cheektowaga:

Rachel Straker provided an update on the existing Hanzlian Loan.

No updates were provided concerning the legal strategies regarding the Gordon & Co. loans.

Rachel Straker stated that the audit was in process and all State reports will be filed when the audit complete.

The revolving loan policy modifications made by Rachel Straker will be reviewed by Richard Willis and Mike Thomas prior to the next meeting.

New Business:

Board Outreach Strategy:

A discussion was held regarding possible outreach strategies including collaboration with the newly merged Lancaster, Depew, Cheektowaga, & Elma Cahmber of Commerce. Conversations were held regarding focusing on small businesses, loans versus grants, outreach events, social media presence, and web site enhancements.

Future Meeting Times:

It was decided that meeting will start at 5:30pm.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by: Richard Willis

Seconded by: Joseph Dietrich

Motion: To adjourn the Board of Directors meeting.

Vote: Ayes 5; Nays 0; Abstain 0.

The public meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.



Signature of Secretary