

Michigan Film Office Advisory Council Minutes  
Meeting of April 15, 2011

1. **Call to order**
  - a. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Emery King at 10:15 am at the Phoenix Theatre in Livonia, Michigan. Council members introduced themselves to the public.
  - b. A quorum was present with the following members: Bob Brown, Jim Burnstein, Xenia Castillo-Hunter, Hopwood DePree, Marcia Fishman (by phone), Cory Jacobson, Danialle Karmanos, Emery King, Tim Magee, Sue Marx, William O'Reilly and Marc Prey.
  - c. Unable to attend were: Bill Black and Michael Moore.
  - d. Also present was Carrie Jones, Director, Michigan Film Office.
2. A motion to adopt the agenda of April 15, 2011 was made, supported and approved.
3. A motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2011 was made, supported and approved.
4. **Film Office Director's Report:**

**INCENTIVES**

**Applications:**

Since our last advisory council meeting in March, we have received an additional 10 applications bringing our total number of applications for 2011 to 56.

Since our last Advisory Board meeting, we have approved the following projects: FIVE YEAR ENGAGEMENT (feature film), HUNG (television series), SPY KIDS 4 (post-production), and AWOL (feature film). To date, \$10,039,141 in incentives has been awarded on \$24,247,502 of approved production expenditures for the year.

**MBT Film Credit Refund:**

2008 projects: We have received 32 MBT film credit refund returns. Of the 32 returns received, we have processed 31 returns for a total of \$46,519,668.

2009 projects: We have received 36 MBT film credit refund returns (representing 37 projects). Of the 36 returns received, we have processed all 36 returns for a total of \$70,072,683.

2010 projects: We have received 6 MBT film credit refund returns. Of the 6 returns received, we have processed 1 return for a total of \$441,559.

**PRODUCTION**

Currently in production we have LITTLEST ANGEL, BEN HOGAN WII, BEN HOGAN WEBSITE, WHEN I NEED TO SMILE, and CHASING JIMMY.

Projects in pre-production are BAGMONKEYS, SCAR 23, MARGARINE WARS, DANCES WITH WEREWOLVES, OZ, WHEN I NEED TO SMILE, REPRISE, CHASING JIMMY, AWOL, HUNG, FIVE YEAR ENGAGEMENT and KEYS TO THE GOOSE.

Wrapped in 2011 are DETROIT WINTER, DETROIT 1-8-7, FISH: ZOO ZOOS AND WHAM WHAMS, FAMILY WEEKEND, and IDES OF MARCH.

5. Following the Director's Report, Vice Chair Jim Burnstein spoke to continuing support for the Student Creative Film Alliance, indicating that the Alliance' documentary, APPLEVILLE, premiered on March 30 to an audience of more than 900.
6. Cory Jacobson, as host of the Council meeting at the Phoenix, welcomed the Council and audience members. He also spoke to the added business brought to the theater and community by SCREAM 4, including international attention.
7. Marc Prey moved that the Council create a letter on behalf of the entire body supporting the preservation of the film incentive credit in a meaningful form, the letter bearing the signatures of all Council members and distributed to each Legislator, the Governor, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the media. Motion seconded by Jim Burnstein. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Prey offered to draft the letter.
8. Discussion ensued regarding preservation of the incentive program. Bob Brown gave an historical perspective on the incentive legislation from inception in 2001 to passage in 2008, indicating the importance of institutional memory.

Sue Marx suggested that when applications for the incentive are reviewed, that attention be given to the creation of Michigan jobs by the respective films.

Cory Jacobson stated that efforts should continue to educate legislators regarding the film industry, including visits to studios and film sets. He indicated that a legislator on a recent visit to the Raleigh Studios had been favorably impressed.

9. An update was given by Ken Droz, industry consultant, as to ongoing public events related to the film incentives.
10. **Remarks from the Public**

Mark Adler: Inquired as to the identity of members of the current MEDC Film Review Committee. Spoke **to the need for larger films to be brought to Michigan as the training and support Michigan crews get is hard to find locally only. We need to reach out and find films that would benefit Michigan instead of waiting for them to call us.**

Shari Lebo, Director of the Jewish Film Festival: Spoke to increased Festival attendance and also the excitement of young film makers who wish to stay in Michigan due to the burgeoning film industry.

Dan Comaianni, Next Chapter Bookstore: Spoke to the boost to his business due to the filming of SCREAM 4 partially in his bookstore.

Paul Goodpaster, Empire Movie Cars: Indicated that his business supports three families and that he has worked on 17 films.

Dan Lemieux, Superior Stunts: Spoke of the need to be creative, such as by giving status of 'executive producer' at the beginning of a film or residual credits.

**Next Meeting:** Chairman King announced that the next meeting of the Advisory Council will be scheduled on June 10 in conjunction with the Waterfront Film Festival June 9-12 in the Saugatuck area.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emery King, Chair

Prepared by:

Alice Florida