

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2006 at 4:00 P.M.
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room

	<u>Current Meeting</u>	<u>2006 Cumulative Attendance</u>	
<u>Board Members</u>		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Robert Boyd	P	1	0
Mark Budwig	P	1	0
William Burrington, Chair	P	1	0
Pat DuMont	P	1	0
Kristina Hebert	P	1	0
Cort Neimark	P	1	0
Adam Sanders	P	1	0
Tim Schiavone	A	0	1
Gerri Washington	P	1	0
Gwen Watson	P	1	0
Lisa Zelch	A	0	1

Staff

Silver Lee, Clerk II
 Jamie Opperlee, Recording Secretary

Guests

Bob LaMattina, Beach Community Redevelopment Agency Director

I. Call to Order

Chair DuMont called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m. Board members, City staff and guests introduced themselves in turn.

II. Approval of December 2005 Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Burrington and seconded by Mr. Budwig to approve the December 2005 minutes. Board unanimously approved.

III. Introduction of Adam Sanders and Kristina Hebert (new members)

Chair DuMont

Chair DuMont introduced new members Kristina Hebert and Adam Sanders.

Ms. Hebert stated that she was Vice President of Operations at Ward's Marine Electric, her family's business. She was also the current president of the Marine Industries Association of South Florida.

Mr. Sanders stated he worked for the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Lauderdale.

IV. Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Chairperson Patricia DuMont

Jim Naugle, Fort Lauderdale Mayor

[This item was taken out of order]

Mayor Naugle presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Chair DuMont, thanking her for her service to the City. He remarked that the Economic Development Advisory Board had done great things and thanked the entire Board.

V. Old/New Business

EDAB Members

None

VI. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair

Chair DuMont

Chair DuMont asked Board members to indicate their interest in serving as Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Budwig said he and Mr. Burrington had talked and wanted to work together as Vice Chair and Chair respectively.

Motion made by Ms. Watson and seconded by Mr. Boyd to close nominations. Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Burrington was voted Chair and Mr. Budwig was voted Vice Chair unanimously.

Chair Burrington then assumed control of the meeting.

VII. Manager's Report

Ronald Hicks, Director, Economic Development

[Mr. Hicks was not available due to illness]

Mr. LaMattina explained that they were considering median rehabilitation grants for individual businesses. He felt the Business Improvement District was in its final format and presentations would occur shortly. The Disaster Recovery Plan was in the works and they were in the process of gathering information from hotels and condos about those who needed assistance to be better prepared for next year.

Mr. Budwig asked what the timeline was for the streetscape project. Mr. LaMattina explained that it would be in the ground by next January or February. He briefly described the project components to the Board.

Mr. LaMattina had attended a meeting recently regarding what must be done to enhance the beach area. Everyone agreed that better, more efficient maintenance was key. Mr. Boyd asked Mr. LaMattina what the situation was with the 17th Street Causeway area. Mr. LaMattina felt that here too, the key was to have a program for maintenance.

Chair Burrington felt they should try to confine their meetings to one hour from now on.

Chair Burrington explained that he was from Milwaukee, which was known for being a very well managed and maintained, clean, beautiful city. He had gone to law school and subsequently served as chief counsel for a Wisconsin congressional representative in Washington D.C. He then worked representing municipalities on a variety of telecom issues.

Chair Burrington explained that he was hired by Steve Case, founder of AOL in 1994 to open AOL's Washington D.C. office and serve as head of government relations and public affairs. In 1999, he moved to Europe to be Chief Communications Officer for AOL until 2000. He then moved to Key West and renovated a condo. He relocated to Fort Lauderdale in October 2004 because he felt Fort Lauderdale was a unique geographic center point with an excellent quality of life.

Chair Burrington said he and Mr. Budwig had discussed "Fort Lauderdale 2.1", meaning the next version of Fort Lauderdale that was currently evolving. Chair Burrington wanted to invite the head of the Broward Alliance to the February meeting to brief them about what they were doing in terms of economic development. Ms. Watson felt that they should invite the head of the Chamber of Commerce to a future meeting as well.

Mr. Budwig related that he was from Chicago and had moved to Key West in 1999 and then to Fort Lauderdale in 2001. He was on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, the Riverwalk Trust and the Downtown Council.

Chair Burring remarked that the largest sector of the economy in the United States right now was in the creative industries and he felt Fort Lauderdale had all of the ingredients needed to become a magnet for this creative economy. Chair Burrington noted the importance of the Marine industry and Ms. Hebert stated that she believed Fort Lauderdale was losing the title of "Yachting Capital of the World." She explained that in the last five years, there was a 33% loss of marine yards; there were only nine yards left and six of those had offers on them. It was no longer affordable for them to stay in business. She would like the City to work to retain more marine business.

Ms. DuMont reminded the Board that Mr. Hicks wanted to meet with the new Chair and Vice Chair to discuss the outline they had created in October. She felt they could also discuss the Broward Alliance prior to their attending an EDAB meeting.

Chair Burrington listed the goals of the Economic Development Advisory Board: business attraction, retention and development, and to serve as business ambassadors, promoting the City to the business community throughout the country and the world, and to advise the City Commission in matters of local, national, and international business recruitment, retention and expansion. He advised the Board to read over the information in their Board packet.

Ms. DuMont wanted Board members to remember to communicate with their individual City Commissioners to keep them aware of what was happening at EDAB and to attend City Commission Workshop meetings as well. She agreed to meet with Chair Burrington, Mr. Budwig and Mr. Hicks prior to the next meeting.

Thereupon the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 8, 2006.