

Approved
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2007 at 4:00 P.M.
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room

		2007 Cumulative		
	<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
1.	Robert Boyd	P	1	0
2.	Mark Budwig, Chair	P	1	0
3.	Pat DuMont	A	0	1
4.	Kristina Hebert	P	1	0
5.	Cort Neimark	P	1	0
6.	Ralph Riehl	P	1	0
7.	Adam Sanders	P	1	0
8.	Tim Schiavone	P	1	0
9.	Gerri Washington	P	1	0
10.	Gwen Watson, Vice Chair	P	1	0
11.	vacant			

Staff

Ron Hicks, Director of Economic Development
Patricia L. Smith, Secretary III
Mona Laventure, Recording Secretary

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Budwig called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Board members introduced themselves in turn.

II. Approval of December 2006 Minutes

Motion made by Ms. Hebert, seconded by Ms. Washington, to approve the minutes of the December 2006 meeting. In a voice vote, Board unanimously approved.

III. Director's Report

Ron Hicks

Mr. Hicks reported that they were working with Home Diagnostics, maker of diabetes testing devices, to locate their headquarters in downtown Fort Lauderdale. This would create 135 jobs with an average wage of \$47,000. The City had developed an incentive package to keep the company here. They were also currently working on incentives for another company to relocate to Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Hicks said the New Year's Eve celebration downtown had gone very well and they hoped it would continue to grow.

Mr. Hicks confirmed that the Gospel Hall of Fame was now seeking property north of Fort Lauderdale and would not be located in the City.

Mr. Hicks announced that on January 15, Martin Luther King Day, City offices would be closed and celebrations would take place, which he invited Board members to attend. He also invited them to attend the lighting ceremony at Huizenga Plaza on January 20th at 5:00 p.m.

Chair Budwig explained that several letters to the editor had appeared in the Sun Sentinel recently describing very negative encounters at Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood Airport with Broward Sheriff's Office personnel. Chair Budwig wondered if they could do something about this. Mr. Hicks felt this was something the Rapid Response Team should address. He suggested that they write their own letters to counter the negative ones in the paper. Chair Budwig said he would contact the Sheriff's Office directly to understand what they felt the problem might be before writing a letter. He agreed to report back to the Board.

Mr. Riehl asked Mr. Hicks to create a status report of projects on which he was working to bring Mr. Riehl up to speed. Mr. Hicks agreed to do this individually with Mr. Riehl.

IV. Election of Officers

EDAB Members

Motion made by Mr. Riehl, seconded by Mr. Schiavone, to elect Mr. Budwig Chair. Board unanimously approved.

Board members confirmed by voice vote that they wished Ms. Watson to continue to serve as Vice Chair.

V. Old/New Business

EDAB Members

Old Business

Boat Tour, January 19, 2:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Hebert said the boat had room for 6 adults. She reported that they would leave from Lauderdale Marine Center. Chair Budwig, Mr. Schiavone, Ms. Dumont and Ms. Watson agreed to attend. Mr. Hicks reminded the Board that public notice of this meeting must be provided.

Discussion of Goals

SME – Small/Minority-owned Business Enterprise Outreach Seminars

Ms. Watson said she would be able to provide the future dates at their next meeting.

Joint parking venture between the City and the North Beach area Holiday Inn

Mr. Schiavone said they had met with Planning and Zoning to discuss their options. He felt that whoever ended up owning the Blackstone property would improve the parking garage in order to profit from it. Mr. Schiavone confirmed that there was no City-owned land available for development of a parking garage in that area.

Mr. Hicks said he and Mr. Jessup had discussed making Bonnet House more accessible to include it in the "village atmosphere" of the area.

Mr. Schiavone felt that Blackstone was still wrangling with the city regarding what they would be permitted to do with the property. Mr. Hicks remarked that the area of Sunrise Boulevard was a major City gateway, but this area did not have the benefit of the CRA.

Mr. Schiavone said if he did not get the BCIP grant, he intended to complete the project himself to stimulate the neighborhood improvement in the hopes of being reimbursed at some point in the future. Mr. Hicks said he would set up a meeting with Peter Henn.

Chair Budwig said Bonnet House was in the process of re-branding and would probably entertain suggestions. Mr. Schiavone felt the hotel could offer to create and maintain a Bonnet House entrance on A1A.

Street Beautification / Interim Construction Aesthetics/Beautification

Chair Budwig asked about a banner east of the Sunrise Bridge. Mr. Hicks said they had already held one banner meeting, and wanted to make a presentation to the Commission regarding rules for the use of banners.

Chair Budwig asked the Board to create a list of suggestions for potential improvements/beautification. Mr. Schiavone noted the area across from Holiday Park; he felt this could be improved with mesh fencing.

Mr. Riehl mentioned the fence around Birch State Park on Sunrise had been down since the hurricane. He said someone from the Tourism Council was in communication with the State regarding this.

Mr. Hicks remarked on how awful the beach construction fencing was. They had asked planning to require higher, nicer fencing for future projects.

Billfish Tournament

Ms. Hebert asked if Mr. Hicks had followed up on the Billfish Tournament parking problem. Mr. Hicks said he was told that the Commission had created a special event parking fee that applied to every event. Ms. Hebert said there were no cleanup costs for the City for this event, and warned that the tournament would not return because of the \$12,000 parking fee. She felt this was a bad message to send to events. The tournament's fee was \$5,000 two years ago and \$8,000 last year.

Mr. Riehl asked Mr. Hicks if there was \$4,000 or \$5,000 available from Economic Development budget to subsidize this event. Mr. Hicks said there was not. Ms. Hebert felt it was too late for this year, as the event was scheduled for February.

Mr. Schiavone suggested that Board members recommend to the City Commission that they create categories of fees for parking.

City Logo items

The Board discussed the clothing item they would purchase to wear to public events. Chair Budwig agreed to make a list of articles from which the Board members could choose.

New Business

Mr. Riehl said his experience with the City Manager's office as a member of the South Florida Tourism Council had been unique and rewarding. He distributed a packet of information to the Board and asked for their feedback at the next meeting. The City Manager had asked non-profit organizations to improve the City, and the South Florida Tourism Council had been asked to consider the beach area. The City Manager promised that any problems reported would be addressed within 24 hours, and this had proven true.

Some of the issues that had been addressed included:

- Beer delivery trucks no longer parked on the sidewalks
- City vehicles and squad cars no longer parked on the sidewalk
- Creation of a reunification fund to help the homeless return to their families

Mr. Sanders announced that the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee was ramping up its efforts, and invited Board members to attend their meetings every second Friday.

Ms. Watson said they were planning "Stop the Violence" outreach to businesses. She invited the Board to attend a "Stop the Violence" forum on January 11 at the Embassy Suites. On January 12, there was another forum for clergy at Mount Bethel Baptist Church. She announced that on January 15, the MLK parade started at 9:00 a.m. on Sistrunk.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.