

APPROVED
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD (EDAB)
MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2011 – 3:45-5:15 P.M.

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Dev Motwani, Chair	A	1	1
Sheryl Dickey, Vice Chair	P	2	0
Miya Burt-Stewart	P	2	0
Al Calloway (4:16)	P	2	0
Christopher Denison	P	2	0
Cary Goldberg	P	1	0
Jason Hughes	P	2	0
George Mihaiu	A	1	1
Cort Neimark	P	2	0
Ralph Riehl	A	0	2
Adam Sanders	P	1	1

At this time, there are 11 appointed members to the Board, which means 6 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Stephen Scott, Economic Development Director
Patricia Smith, Economic Development Secretary III
Barbara Hartmann, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

Motion by Ms. Burt-Stewart, seconded by Mr. Denison, requesting the City Commission consider specifically rescinding Resolution 10-198 and/or reconsidering that there be a physical disability or some kind of illness the primary purpose for being allowed to participate in a meeting telephonically, [and] recommend that this not be the sole purpose or indicator as to why a member would be restricted from participating in a meeting via telephonics. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Vice Chair Dickey called the meeting to order at 3:59 p.m. and the members, Staff, and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of January 12, 2011 Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Sanders, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2011 meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

III. Introduction of New Members

New member Cary Goldberg is a partner in Diversified Realty, which has several projects throughout the state of Florida.

IV. Electronic Call-In Meeting Participation

Mr. Scott recalled that this had been discussed at the previous meeting. He provided the Board members with copies of the Resolution, and explained that there had been some confusion regarding whether all the items listed apply. He said the City Clerk's Office has stated all terms do apply.

He advised that written notice of a member's absence must be given to the City Clerk at least seven days prior to the meeting. Only the members physically present at a meeting will be permitted to vote, although the member attending telephonically would count toward a quorum. The members who are physically present vote at the beginning of the meeting on whether or not the reason for an absence meets the standard established by the Resolution.

Ms. Burt-Stewart said these rules could make it difficult for board and committee members whose presence is required by their businesses to attend some meetings. She felt a member should be allowed to attend telephonically and participate if the only barrier between them and the meeting is one of distance, and that the members should be allowed to determine whether an absence is excusable. She did not agree that the Resolution is clear that all criteria must apply to an absence.

Mr. Scott explained that the City Attorney's Office, which was responsible for writing the Resolution, has stated that all terms apply. He noted that the Resolution was written to apply to all City advisory bodies, and said if the Board would like to express its dissatisfaction to the City Commission, this could be done through the communication process.

Mr. Denison pointed out that the Resolution applies to all City Boards. Ms. Burt-Stewart said Mr. Scott had noted that "some boards are a bit lenient" regarding the reasons for absences. Mr. Scott clarified that seven days' notice is required for the City Clerk's Office to set up the necessary equipment to allow telephonic participation; he said he had been told that some boards accept a looser

interpretation of the criteria, which, if examined, might not fit the Resolution's requirements.

Mr. Denison said he felt he would be "penalized" if he wished to attend a meeting but could not due to a reason other than illness. He stated the Resolution was "very inflexible," particularly with a requirement for advance notice of illness.

Ms. Burt-Stewart said she did not have an issue with an inability to vote via telephonic participation, but felt she could still participate in Board business if physical distance alone prevented her from attending.

Motion made by Ms. Burt-Stewart that this Board would create language within a memorandum to the City Commission, asking them to reconsider the language and the guidelines that are now in place for board and advisory committees for the purposes of attending meetings electronically.

Mr. Scott suggested that for clarification, the **motion** should specifically refer to the requirement of a physical disability or illness. Ms. Burt-Stewart agreed that if this issue is addressed, she did not have a problem with the requirement of seven days' notice.

Mr. Calloway arrived at 4:16 p.m.

Ms. Burt-Stewart restated her **motion** as follows: that this Board would create a communication to the City Commission which reflects language addressed in Resolution 10-198, specifically rescinding and/or reconsidering that there be a physical disability or some kind of illness the primary purpose for being allowed to participate in a meeting telephonically, [and] recommend that that not be the sole purpose or indicator as to why a member would be restricted from participating in a meeting via telephonics.

Mr. Denison **seconded** the **motion**, and Vice Chair Dickey called the question. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Mr. Scott reminded the Board that communications are read to the Commission verbatim, and the Commissioners then ask any questions of the Board Liaison to clarify what is meant. He said if Ms. Burt-Stewart wished to be present and make the case for her communication, the City Commission was likely to honor this request and allow her to speak to the issue as well.

He explained to the new Board members that if three consecutive meetings or four meetings within a calendar year are missed, a member is removed from the Board and must go back to the City Commission for reappointment.

V. Beach Homeless Report

Mr. Scott recalled that Mr. Riehl had previously asked for this topic to be addressed, although he was not present to give a report on the issue. He explained that there is a homeless issue affecting the City, and Mr. Riehl had expressed concern that the issue was receiving a good deal of publicity in the Downtown area but considerably less publicity for the beach.

Mr. Scott added that the issue has gone on for several years, including a case in which a civic group wanted to feed homeless people on the beach. A City task force is looking into alternatives to feeding the homeless in a City park, as it is necessary to show a court that there are adequate alternative sites nearby that can serve this same purpose. Currently two proposed sites have been identified in the Downtown area, although the neighborhoods have objected to this use.

He said the task force is primarily composed of City Staff members and representatives of the City's faith community, and is seeking to find less objectionable sites. The Mayor has stated there should be sites selected on both the north and south sides of the river to prevent the burden from falling disproportionately on a single area. He did not believe there were similar efforts addressing the issue on the beach, and concluded that he would like to hear Mr. Riehl's report on this topic at a future meeting.

Mr. Hughes asked if the Ordinance addressing trespassing could be clarified. Mr. Scott said it is not considered trespassing to "camp out" or stay overnight on the beach.

IV. Director's Report

Mr. Scott suggested that at the next meeting, he could give a presentation on the Economic Development Department and the work they do for the City. The members agreed that they would like to see this. He continued that if members have specific topics they would like the Board to discuss, he would be happy to add these suggestions to the Agenda.

Mr. Denison said he would like to talk about the Wave streetcar system. He added that there is an issue with the FEC bridge that affects both the marine community and the neighborhoods surrounding the approaches to the bridge. He said there is also a CSX/Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) project involving the railroad bridge beside I-95. He requested an update on what is being done with regard to these projects, as well as general transportation issues facing the City. Mr. Scott said in addition to these proposals, he would look into inviting the Water Taxi proprietor to an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Scott said the port/airport trolley system would begin soon. This is a partnership between the Department, the TMA, and other private sector interests to bring tourists from the port into the City. A "soft kickoff" will take place on the weekend of February 19. He noted that this has been a challenge with Broward County Transit, as the system will need to use their existing sign poles. A more publicized opening will take place in March 2011. He said he would send a copy of the map the system will use to members.

He continued that he is also working on the lease for the River House, as negotiations are underway with the potential lessee. If this goes well, the lease will be on the agenda in March. The New River Trading Post has also found an advertising agency, which will be a tenant for its space facing the river. This space has been vacant for three years.

Mr. Scott recalled that the Board had asked the City Commission to restore the funding for the Business Capital Improvement Program (BCIP) to its previous level. The Commissioners agreed that the issue would be discussed further when the 2011-12 budget is proposed.

Mr. Denison asked if the Board could request an update from the Centennial Celebration Committee as well. Mr. Scott agreed to look into this for the next meeting, as the Centennial's biggest event will take place in March.

Mr. Scott continued that in 2011, a single Board meeting will be dedicated to education on BCIP prior to the meeting at which the members are asked to vote.

V. Old / New Business

Ms. Burt-Stewart requested an update on bond funds at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Scott noted that the program was not renewed for 2011, but advised that industrial revenue bonds continue to be available through other programs. Vice Chair Dickey asked for a report on loans available for the marine industry as well.

- **Communications to the City Commission**

The communication was discussed earlier during the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.