

Approved
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD (EDAB)
MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY January 8, 2014 – 3:45-5:15 P.M.

Board Members	Attendance – January thru December		
		Present	Absent
Sheryl Dickey, Chair	P	1	0
Kit Denison, Vice Chair	P	1	0
Jason Scott Crush	P	1	0
Cary Goldberg	P	1	0
Jason Hughes	P	1	0
Cort Niemark	P	1	0
George Mihaiu	P	1	0
Denyse O’Grady	P	1	0
Dev Motwani	A	0	1
Keith Costello	P	1	0

At this time, there are 10 appointed members to the Board, which means 6 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Al Battle, Economic & Community Reinvestment Manager
 Karen Reese, Economic Dev. Rep., Economic & Community Reinvestment
 Laura Gambino, Business Development Coordinator
 Thomasina Turner, Project Coordinator
 Patricia L. Smith, Secretary III

I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Chair Dickey called the meeting to order at 3:54 p.m. and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Communications to City Commission

None.

II. Introductions

The Board, staff members, and guests introduced themselves.

New member Keith Costello introduced himself.

III. Approval of December 11, 2013 Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Goldberg and seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2013 meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of 2014 Meeting Schedule (taken out of order in the meeting)

Motion made by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Ms. O'Grady to approve 2014 Economic Development meeting schedule. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

V. Election of Officers

The Board discussed the role of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Motion made by Mr. Denison and seconded by Mr. Neimark to nominate Jason Scott Crush as Chair and Cary Goldberg as Vice-Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Board. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

The Board requested that Chair Dickey complete her duties as Chair by concluding the business of the January meeting.

VI. All Aboard Florida Update - Carol Henderson, All Aboard Florida (AAF)

Chair Dickey introduced Ms. Henderson from All Aboard Florida. Ms. Henderson stated that she worked with the hospitality community for AAF and gave a brief background of the history of the company. She stated that AAF is the same company that Henry Flagler owned over 120 years ago and will be operating on the same rail system with the exception of 35 miles from Cocoa Beach to Orlando.

Ms. Henderson explained the trip that AAF wants to create from Miami to Orlando and stated that it will be consistent and competitive with driving.

She stated that AAF continues to do research which identifies that the travel and ridership corridor they are targeting is much sought after for both locals and visitors/leisure.

There will be 2 engines on each train with custom coaches, 2 business cars, a dining car with gourmet food items and a family friendly car. AAF is also looking at the possibility of a pet friendly car. There will also be intermodal connectivity, which means that when you reach your destination you will be able to hop on a bus, rent a zip car or car, a bicycle, etc.

Ms. Henderson stated that the time frame will be 3 hours with very high w-fi connectivity. She explained the Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach locations, stating that they are all very well situated for other multi-modal hub destinations in the area.

AAF believes they will revitalize the economy by creating thousands of jobs, removing cars from the road and spending 1.5 billion in private funding into Florida's economy.

Ms. Henderson stated that they will be breaking ground for the new station in Fort Lauderdale some time this year. She also stated that they will be re-branding.

Ms. Henderson stated that AAF will not be competing with TriRail, however the prices will be competitive to driving.

She stated that the project is currently under way and the projected start date for service is 2015.

The Board was concerned about boat traffic for the New River Bridge.

The Board asked about other city stops and Ms. Henderson explained that research showed that too many stops would not be effective for the people taking the train.

The Board wanted to know about status of the Broward County Bus Station. Mr. Battle stated that station will change because that location will become a part of a multi-modal hub, however the busses will remain.

Darlene Pfeiffer, Business Mgr., Trans. & Mobility stated that while she is not personally involved, there is active planning happening to determine how the complete station area will look and work together. She stated there will be public outreach meetings when more of the planning has come together between the City and the County.

The Board expressed concerns about the tax payer somehow having to pick up the difference in operating costs should this venture not meet the researched expectations.

Kevin Phillips, President of City View Town Homes Homeowners Association stated that the proposed AAF Station will be in their backyard and voiced the concerns of the homeowners in that development as regards to train horns and traffic and how can they be accommodated, and especially when construction begins.

Mr. Battle spoke about a movement to rezone the area around The Wave complex which includes the AAF footprint as a transit oriented development area as this would help with funding for the business community and the TOD (type of development) that can happen in the area. This would also help with ground level development around the area.

The Board thanked Sheryl Dickey for her services as the Board Chair over the last two years.

V. Old/New Business

The Board discussed the Historic Preservation Board's proposed new preservation ordinance. It was determined that this Board should spend at least one meeting reviewing the Historic Board's proposal and how it effects revitalization and economic development within the City.

Mr. Battle reminded the Board of the complexities of this topic and stated that the Board would want to be very efficient in how they proceed.

The Board requested a copy of the Historic Preservation Board's minutes on the proposed preservation changes.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by Patricia L. Smith, Secretary III]