



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

APPROVED
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 – 3:45 P.M.

January-December 2019

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Jordan Yates, Chair	P	9	0
Nicholas Kuchova, Vice Chair	P	9	0
Jay Adams	P	4	2
Michael Buonaiuto	P	9	0
Christopher “Kit” Denison	P	7	2
Dudly Etienne-Harvard	P	4	2
Bernice Lee	A	6	3
David Neal	P	9	0

Staff

Michael Chen, City Liaison, Economic and Business Development Manager
Suzy Joseph, Economic Development Program Aide
Joseph Cruz, Representative of Fort Lauderdale Commissioner Heather Moraitis
Tatiana Guerrier, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to the City Commission

None.

I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Chair Yates called the meeting to order at 3:51 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

II. Approval of August 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Buonaiuto, seconded by Vice Chair Kuchova, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

III. Staff Updates

The Board members and guests introduced themselves as well.

Chair Yates noted that former Board member Steve Buckingham has resigned from the Board. Mr. Chen advised that there are currently three vacant seats on the Board. Prospective members must reside in Fort Lauderdale or participate in a business within the City. He added that the Board is in need of representation from a cross-section of different types of businesses throughout the City to provide varying perspectives to the table. The Ordinance that created the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) provides a full list of the criteria for membership.

Mr. Chen reported that the City is on track to set a new record for annual building permits, with a slightly lower average value per permit. He also provided the members with a second quarter market report from *Collier's International*.

Mr. Chen continued that he had met once more with Broward County Vice Mayor Dale Holness, who addressed the August 14, 2019 Board meeting regarding the proposed Latin American and Caribbean Presidential and Prime Minister Museum and Library. Vice Mayor Holness is leading the County's effort to establish this facility in Fort Lauderdale, where it would be a component of the Greater Fort Lauderdale / Broward County Convention Center expansion.

Mr. Buonaiuto referred to an earlier presentation to the Board by the City's Nighttime Economy Manager, recalling that the Board had requested an overview of the City's daytime and nighttime economies. Mr. Chen noted that the Board had made a formal recommendation to the City Commission in support of an initiative requested by Nighttime Economy Manager Sarah Hannah-Spurlock, with the qualification that the study also consider the economic impact of the City's daytime economy. The City Commission is likely to consider this recommendation with regard to the 2019-2020 budget.

IV. Review / Discuss presentations from past meetings to determine if actions and / or recommendations to the Commission should be considered:

- **Mission-To-Market Subcommittee**

Chair Yates recalled that the Board received approval from the City Commission to form a subcommittee to focus on the Mission-to-Market initiative. The subcommittee will be governed by the same Ordinance that oversees the EDAB and must follow the same rules and regulations as the Board, including public notice and recording of minutes.

Mr. Chen stated that aside from basic rules, the subcommittee will fall under the Board's discretion regarding its size, description, and nature. He pointed out that the subcommittee's membership will include but is not limited to members of the EDAB, and suggested that the members seek to include contacts who may provide valuable input to the subcommittee as members or presenters.

Mr. Chen advised that the Board will need to work with the City's recording service to determine availability. He will also need to locate a meeting space, which may be within the Department of Sustainable Development rather than at City Hall. The Board will also need to determine the hierarchy of the subcommittee and identify the Staff member or members tasked with its oversight. While Mr. Chen will attend subcommittee meetings whenever possible, there may be opportunities for other City Staff members to gain experience through further interaction with the group.

Vice Chair Kuchova suggested that the Board reach out to Florida International University (FIU) for information on how their materials will be archived or made available to the public, as well as on which aspects of the Mission-to-Market program may provide the greatest opportunity for Fort Lauderdale and South Florida.

Mr. Chen suggested that the subcommittee's intent be as broad as possible so it can cover any subject relevant to the Mission-to-Market program and the City's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in relation to this program. Once the subcommittee has met, it can further determine its priorities and boundaries.

Mr. Chen offered to provide copies of the Board's policies and its governing Ordinance for the members' review. He agreed to explore the availability of City Hall or Department of Sustainable Development facilities and bring this information back to the next Board meeting.

Chair Yates, Vice Chair Kuchova, Mr. Buonaiuto, Mr. Denison, and Mr. Neal expressed an interest in serving on the subcommittee. Its purpose and scope would be to support the implementation and growth of the adopted MOU to the benefit of the City of Fort Lauderdale, the state of Florida, and the United States. Mr. Chen pointed out that the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) intends the program to have a national and possibly international reach.

Mr. Chen suggested that the subcommittee could provide proactive outreach to generate a pipeline of candidates to the Mission-to-Market program. While this would not be a separate part of the subcommittee's definition, as it is covered under implementation of the MOU, he urged the members to establish an ongoing program that would provide a meaningful long-term contribution to the overall effort.

Mr. Denison asked if the subcommittee would be constrained from meeting more often than on a monthly basis. Mr. Chen replied there is no such constraint as long as the meetings are publicly noticed and minutes are recorded. Vice Chair Kuchova emphasized the subcommittee's potential role in bringing different facets of the business community, such as businesses, investors, and incubators, together toward the greater goal of the Mission-to-Market program.

Mr. Chen noted that once a Chair has been identified for the subcommittee and the group has met, they can address additional needs and tasks, including a meeting with

one or more FIU representatives to discuss objectives and goals. USDOE will provide funding to FIU to create the foundation of the Mission-to-Market program, while the City is considered an appendage to this relationship to accelerate the accomplishment of the program's objectives. Fort Lauderdale does not have a direct relationship with USDOE.

Mr. Chen recommended delegation of an individual subcommittee member to reach out to candidate businesses and other elements that may wish to participate in the program. Discussion of funding will have greater urgency and feasibility once the program is more clearly defined and candidates are identified for the pipeline. FIU visualizes a four- to six-month training session to prepare companies to be recipients of USDOE technology.

Mr. Chen continued that the program is seeking viable start-up prospects or existing companies with sufficient business experience that suggests they could profit from the Mission-to-Market program over the long term. The goal is to identify these companies' interests and determine how FIU can conduct a focused search of USDOE technologies that will fit their needs. He strongly emphasized the need for participation by women- or minority-owned companies in the program.

Mr. Chen advised that a second factor is the need for the subcommittee to partner with existing entrepreneurial training sources, such as those provided by Nova Southeastern University, Broward College, Career Source, public trade schools, and others. This will coordinate the subcommittee's efforts to create a pipeline for USDOE with existing efforts.

It was determined that the subcommittee would include the five Board members cited earlier, and would follow terms according to City policy, with a location to be determined and the purpose of supporting the implementation and growth of the Mission-to-Market MOU to the direct benefit of the City, County, state, and the U.S. and international communities.

Motion made by Vice Chair Kuchova, seconded by Mr. Denison, as stated above. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

- **Proposed Latin American and Caribbean Presidential Library**

This Item was not discussed.

- **Junior Achievement Presentation**

This Item was not discussed.

Russell Weaver, representing Sister Cities International, reported the following upcoming events:

- September 18: Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce at Tower Club
- October 2: Fire Expo Reception at Harbor Beach Marriott

- October 23: United Kingdom and Irish Chambers of Commerce at Tower Club
- December 16: Azul Airlines begins service to Belo Horizonte, Fort Lauderdale's Sister City in Brazil
- February 19, 2020: United Arab Emirates/Dubai at Tower Club

Mr. Chen advised that he represents the City on Sister Cities International's Board of Directors.

V. New Business

The next Economic Development Advisory Board meeting will be October 9, 2019.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]