DRAFT
MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019 – 3:45 P.M.

January-December 2019

Board Member	Attendance	Present	Absent
Jordan Yates, Chair	P	11	0
Nicholas Kuchova, Vice Chair	P	11	0
Jay Adams	P	5	3
Michael Buonaiuto	P	11	0
Christopher "Kit" Denison (arr. 3:51)	P	9	2
Dudly Etienne-Harvard (arr. 3:55)	P	5	3
Bernice Lee (arr. 3:47)	P	7	4
David Neal	P	10	1
Brett Rose	P	1	1
John Vratsinas	P	1	0

Staff
Michael Chen, City Liaison, Economic and Business Development Manager
Suzy Joseph, Economic Development Program Aide
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 3:46 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

II. Approval of October 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes

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

III. Staff Updates – General Update (5 minutes)

- **New Member – John Vratsinas**

Mr. Chen introduced new Board members Brett Rose and John Vratsinas.

Mr. Chen advised that the Department of Sustainable Development is currently undergoing a software change for the tracking of building permits. Permit data will be provided at the December 2019 meeting.

Mr. Chen continued that he has had several meetings regarding the Mission-to-Market program, including meetings with prospective candidates. A complete draft of the City's new Economic Development web page will be released to the Board members once it has been approved by the City Manager's Office. The Economic and Community Investment (ECI) Division is also in the process of producing a new video for its Business Engagement Assistance and Mentorship (BEAMs) program.

The City was an active participant at the recent Florida International Trade and Cultural Expo, and has developed a new brochure on how to start a business in Fort Lauderdale, including a section on BEAMs. This brochure will be available at events and venues where there is an opportunity to attract local businesses to the City.

- **Meeting Conflicts 2020 – Feb. 12th (Commission Meeting) and November 11th (Veterans Day)**

IV. Dr. Mildred Coyne, Senior VP, Workforce Education and Innovation – Broward College

Dr. Mildred Coyne, Senior Vice President of Workforce Education and Innovation at Broward College, explained that she works with faculty and staff to ensure students have access to the skills they need to be competitive in the current labor market. Broward College is part of the Florida College System, which includes 28 institutions that were originally community colleges. They offer 13 Bachelors' Degrees and are the only public higher education institution in Broward County.

Dr. Coyne showed a PowerPoint presentation on Broward College, which has 63,000 students from 150 countries of origin. They have a majority minority student body and over 5000 full- and part-time faculty and staff members. In 2008, Broward College was ranked #1 in degrees conferred to African-American students and #2 in degrees conferred to Hispanic students.

Broward College offers an affordable and effective access point for higher education. Their in-state tuition is $117.90 per credit. An Associate's Degree typically requires 60 credit hours, which costs roughly $7000 for a two-year degree. The Bachelor's Degree adds another two years and $7800 to this process, resulting in a Bachelor's Degree for roughly $14,000. 75% of students are supported by Pell Grants, which provide Title IV funding through the federal government.

Dr. Coyne advised that Broward College has a presence in 14 countries through international centers and affiliates. Local students may take up to 49% of classes toward

a Broward College degree in their home country, although the affiliate program is not subject to the same accreditation standards and guidelines as are required in the United States. International centers are accredited and allow students to earn an Associate's Degree from Broward College.

While most Broward College students attend with the intent of transferring to another institution, they offer workforce programming and an Associate of Arts degree. Students who graduate with this degree from Broward College or any of the other 28 community institutions are guaranteed admission into one of the 12 state universities. Broward College has a robust relationship with Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and Florida International University (FIU), which are the closest nearby transfer partners.

Broward College offers 58 workforce degrees, which include Associate of Science. This degree includes a small amount of general education with a larger body aimed at technical skill sets and concentrated technical competencies. Associate of Science degrees are also transferable and can be used toward a Bachelor's Degree as well. The institution consistently ranks first in the state of Florida for the number of earned industry certifications by students. 80% to 92% of students who go directly to employment from an Associate of Science degree or technical certificate work in Broward County, where these programs have high placement rates.

Workforce credentials include Associate of Arts and Science Degrees, Bachelor's Degrees, and technical certificates, some of which can be accumulated along the way to these degrees. Bachelor's Degrees are directly tied to workforce demand, which is not always the case within the state university system. Many corporations no longer require college degrees but place greater emphasis on both "soft skills," which affect an employee's interaction and reaction within a work environment, as well as technical skills.

Broward College has business advisory committees for all of their Associate of Sciences and Bachelor's Degrees, which inform them of the skills and technical competencies being sought by employers. This led to the development of Broward College Entrepreneurial Experience (BCEx). The College has also developed a student accelerator and an innovation hub, and partners with Career Source Broward on a community incubator called Start Up Now. Another program, Broward Unlimited Potential (Broward UP), reaches into communities of need outside Fort Lauderdale to bring marginalized individuals into the workforce through attainment of education and skills.

Dr. Coyne concluded that Broward College is a workforce development pipeline for the Broward community and an economic development partner with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Career Source Broward, and other resources.

The Board members discussed the presentation, with Dr. Coyne noting that many students come to Broward College on F1 and M1 visas to receive an American education in addition to the affiliates and international centers abroad. Dr. Chen added that Broward College brings international student delegations to Fort Lauderdale, where they often

have the opportunity to meet with the Mayor. They also bring government delegations to the City from their international institutions.

Broward College's main campuses are located on Pines Boulevard, Davie Boulevard, and Coconut Creek in addition to the online campus and administrative centers. There is a college center located in Downtown Fort Lauderdale and four other areas within Broward County. Because enrollment is declining Downtown, the College is reconsidering its model of how to best serve local communities. One possibility is offering services to young professionals through the innovation hub and Startup Grind programs.

Broward College also offers continuing education services to local employers, including training in management, new systems, and other needs. Some Associate of Science degrees include mandatory internship requirements. Their Career Services Center has internship goals as well so students may explore their majors before graduation.

Mr. Chen advised that one dimension of the Mission-to-Market program, which is undertaken in conjunction with FIU and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is the Equity in Energy program, which sets policy for aggressive outreach to underserved areas and communities of need to develop interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. He felt there could be potential for a partnership between Broward College and the Mission-to-Market program. The Board agreed to further discuss today's presentation on a future Agenda.

V. Old Business

Mr. Adams commented that the Broward County transportation surtax is expected to generate $500 million in revenue per year, and emphasized the need to ensure that Fort Lauderdale is a safe city for all modes of transportation. He suggested that a presentation on this surtax be scheduled on a future Agenda. Mr. Chen stated that he would reach out to local transportation entities to find out who would be able to present to the Board.

VI. New Business

The next Economic Development Advisory Board meeting will be December 11, 2019.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 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.]