



APPROVED
City of Fort Lauderdale
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
 May 12, 2021, 3:30 PM
 Virtual Meeting Minutes

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Nicholas Kuchova, Vice Chair	P	4	1
Jay Adams	A	3	2
Michael Buonaiuto	P	5	0
Dudly Etienne-Harvard	P	3	2
Michael Stara	P	5	0
William “Bill Feinberg	P	3	0
Katherine Koenig <i>(first meeting)</i>	P	1	0
Michael Lorigas <i>(first meeting)</i>	P	1	0

Staff

Daphnee Sainvil, Liaison, Government and External Affairs Manager
 Suzy Joseph, Economic Development Representative
 Krystal Permanan, Economic Development Representative

Communications to the City Commission

None.

I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Mr. Kuchova called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Mrs. Permanan called roll, and it was noted a quorum was present.

II. Approval of the April 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

III. New Business- Presentation: 18-hour City, Sarah Hannah-Spurlock

Mrs. Sarah Hannah-Spurlock, Nighttime Economy (NITE) Manager with the City of Fort Lauderdale delivered a power point presentation titled “The 18-Hour City: Is it right for Fort Lauderdale?” *(see attached)*

Mrs. Hannah-Spurlock highlighted the significance of the other 12 hours of the day and the impact it can have in creating “destination Fort Lauderdale”.

Mr. Kuchova discussed the possibility of EDAB’s role in communicating to the commission that the nighttime economy is viable. Also, to suggest that the commission undertake some activity to study the nighttime economy, which would include the provisions for public private partnerships or other funding sources. That the nighttime economy is an important factor that needs to be addressed.

Mrs. Hannah-Spurlock responded that receiving acknowledgement as such, from the commission would go a long way and would provide leverage for future projects.

IV. Old Business

- **Decorum**

Mr. Kuchova addressed the unacceptable behavior displayed at the last meeting by a board member, who as a result, is no longer on the board. That the behavior was disruptive and unproductive and apologized to Ms. Sainvil and the team for having to sit through such behavior.

Mr. Stara added that he is getting frustrated with the lack of accomplishments from the board and therefore, goals need to be established to be presented to the commission. Also, board leadership needs to be at a caliber to handle such occurrences as the conduct displayed at the last meeting.

- **Discussion and Election of EDAB Board**

Mr. Kuchova opened the nominations for chair and was immediately nominated by Mr. Stara and Mr. Feinberg for the position. Followed by Mr. Buonaiuto nominating himself for the position of chair. Mr. Stara asked for confirmation is nominating yourself was allowed, which Ms. Sainvil responded in approval.

Mr. Feinberg requested that the candidates properly introduce themselves so that everyone, especially new members to the board can learn more about them before voting. This request was facilitated by Ms. Sainvil who offered both candidates an opportunity to make their introductions. In delivering his introduction, Mr. Kuchova expressed his appreciation for the nomination and desire to contribute to the board but stated that he has no aspirations of being the chair, and therefore offers his support to Mr. Buonaiuto.

Mr. Lorigas asked for clarification on the role of the chair. Ms. Sainvil responded with a shared screen of the “Guide for Members of Boards and Committees”, which outlined the role of the chair or vice chair. Mrs. Joseph asked Mr. Lorigas if he ever received a copy of the guide, which he confirmed that he did but did not have a chance to review it.

Mr. Stara moved to elect Mr. Buonaiuto by acclamation, since there were no other candidates. Mr. Kuchova second that motion. Mr. Feinberg asked if all was in favor, any oppose- then in a voice vote, Mr. Buonaiuto was unanimously declared as chair.

Mrs. Joseph facilitated the nomination of the vice chair position. Mr. Feinberg nominated Mr. Kuchova, which was second by Mrs. Koenig. Mr. Feinberg asked if there were any discussion and Mr. Stara responded that he expects Mr. Buonaiuto and Mr. Kuchova to keep the board on track, and to not allow behavior such as the one displayed in the previous meeting to happen in future meetings, because it was disruptive, a waste of the board's time, and is outside of the board's mission. Mr. Kuchova responded "absolutely", and Mr. Buonaiuto reminded the board that he did call a point of order during said behavior. Mr. Stara stated that he thought about running for a position, but decided not to, but will instead be holding the chair and vice chair accountable for leadership. Mr. Feinberg asked if all was in favor of Mr. Kuchova being vice chair, any oppose- then in a voice vote, Mr. Kuchova was unanimously declared as vice chair.

Mr. Buonaiuto asked for the board's opinion on supporting Mrs. Hannah-Spurlock's initiative on the nighttime economy. That whether resources are private or public, that it should be a priority item presented to the commission. Mr. Stara responded that it should be an item added to the list of objectives, to be presented to the commission as a dialogue. Mr. Feinberg agreed that there needs to be a list of top priorities. Mr. Stara insisted that at next month's meeting, the board will come up with a working document to be presented in a scheduled meeting to the commission. Mr. Feinberg asked Ms. Sainvil how important the 18-hour city agenda is to the commission. Ms. Sainvil responded that because of Covid it has not been much of a priority because there hasn't been much of a nighttime economy. However, becoming an 18-hour city is important but we must first address the challenges of homelessness, making our city safer, and broadband infrastructure. That there's no purpose in identifying your city as an 18-hour city on paper, if your infrastructure isn't set up for it.

Ms. Sainvil announced to the board the Governor's executive order pertaining to Covid, that restrictions have been suspended effective immediately. That the city is moving towards in-person meetings for not just commission meetings, but advisory board meetings. That the intended date is June 1st to resume normal activity. Ms. Sainvil asked for the board's recommendation on a meeting date and time to be submitted to the clerk's office for room reservation. Mr. Stara made a motion to request a meeting time change from the current time of 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to the new time of 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., stating that the board could truly benefit from a solid two hours. This motion was supported by a consensus from all members in agreement of the new EDAB meeting time of 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Buonaiuto asked if remote/virtual attendance would be applicable and Ms. Sainvil responded no. Beginning June 1st, 2021, Zoom meetings will no longer be scheduled, and virtual attendance will no longer be permitted for either public or board members.

Mr. Buonaiuto requested from Ms. Sainvil the synthesized SWOT analysis be made available at the next meeting and stated that he will submit a list of agenda items to Ms. Sainvil for the next meeting.

V. Next Meeting: June 9, 2021 (Agenda to be distributed at a later date).

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

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

