



**APPROVED**

**City of Fort Lauderdale  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD  
September 8, 2021, 3:00 PM  
Meeting Minutes**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Michael Buonaiuto, Chair	P	7	2
Nicholas Kuchova, Vice Chair	P	7	2
Jay Adams	A	6	3
Michael Stara	P	8	1
Dudly Etienne-Harvard	P	6	3
Michael Lorigas	P	4	1
Katherine Koenig	P	4	1
William Feinberg	P	7	0
Aaron Baron *new 09-01-2021*	P	1	0

**Staff**

Daphnee Sainvil, Liaison, Governmental and Economic Development Manager

**I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum**

Ms. Sainvil called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM Roll was called, and it was noted a quorum was present.

- Introduction of new member Aaron Baron (Vice Mayor Moraitis appointment)
- Introduction of Senior Management Fellow, Amber Cabrera, who will be working with Ms. Sainvil on Government Affairs and Economic Development topics.

**Communications to the City Commission**

Mr. Feinberg made a recommendation to the City Commission to not sell off existing city property. This recommendation came about discussing infrastructure, transportation, lifestyle challenges the city faces. Existing city infrastructure should be kept and maintained. . .

**Commented [DS1]:** Review the communication recommendation again. Recording of the meeting didn't pick up that portion of the discussion.

**II. Approval of the August 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

- **Motion** made by Bill Feinberg, seconded by Michael Stara, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Mr. Kuchova was acting as Chair in Chair Buonaiuto Because Mr. Stara was in person, Mr. Kuchova handed over Chairmanship over to him for logistical purposes.

**III. Old Business**

*Update: Sun Trolley and Water Taxi Trips*

Conservative view by City Attorney because of sunshine law. If have members on a trip, would have to open the tour to the public. Members said they would be willing to sunshine the meeting/workshop and invite members of the public to join. As a group, the

*Advisory Board Member Training*

Ms. Sainvil will confirm that the City Clerk will provide training to EDAB members at the October meeting.

*Recap Discussion of the Business Assistance Coordinator*

Ms. Sainvil will work with the Senior Fellow, Amber to ask Andre Cross questions about his role as the Business Assistance Coordinator and possibly have him on the next meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Feinberg detailed his experience working with Mr. Cross. DSD has assigned Andre to be the personal concierge to assist with permitting process. Andre assists with plan correction and expedites the process. While there's no way to fast-track the pulling of permits, the Business Assistance Coordinator makes the process easier.

Mr. Baron: acknowledges that Mr. Feinberg has extensive experience with the process, nuanced in contracting. Hasn't met Mr. Cross yet finds it concerning that individuals often do things without having a permit and some aren't as well versed as Mr. Feinberg and Mr. Adams. May not know what questions to ask of Mr. Cross.

Mr. Adams: Says it's time consuming to do business and get a permit.

Mr. Stara: Do we want the John Traverse (the boss) to be present to answer questions?

Mr. Feinberg: Andre is good enough. EDAB is charged to think outside the box in addressing the needs of the business community.

Amber: To clarify. (1) investor/developer coming in, he assists with issues; and (2) will the right questions be asked to see benefits of having a concierge in-house.

**Task:** Bring Andre to discuss his role, job duties, and how he assists businesses.

Mr. Adams: a year and half into rehabbing a property and feels that there were many hurdles.

Mr. Stara: Circling back, it would be beneficial to have Andre present in November to give everyone time to prepare for comments and questions.

Ms. Sainvil: Brief introduction of self (forgot in beginning).

Ms. Koenig: said that she's not a developer nor in construction, so she doesn't have any questions or comments right now.

Mr. Baron: Addressed Lockhart Stadium and one stop shop issue. Mr. Baron explained the one stop shop investment. He also discussed the \$30 million Lockhart Park development. He will bring a background document outlining the issues. Overall, no decisions have been made by the City Commission.

Mr. Feinberg: Would like to make a recommendation to the city to not give away land that city owns (*see Communication to the Commission*).

Ms. Sainvil also provided the members with a snapshot of the 34 projects funded with Transportation Surtax monies. Mr. Adams mentioned the MPO told him the city didn't receive funding. The website is updated and maintained by the County – Mobility Advancement Program <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/20fc2618ab2a41e5b40fa8f2d15f3bbc>. She will share the information via email with members after adjournment of the meeting.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### Next Meeting Tentative Agenda

- October Ethics Training by the City Clerk (City Clerk sent an email)
- Transportation Surtax Funding
- Communications to the Commission
- Review enabling Ordinance – any recommendations from members (staff liaison driven)

#### **V. Next Meeting: October 13, 2021.**

#### **VI. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 PM.

- **Motion** made by Nicholas Kuchova to adjourn, seconded by Aaron Baron to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

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