



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**APPROVED**

**City of Fort Lauderdale  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

March 9, 2022, 3:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

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<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Michael Stara, Chair	A	2	1
Nicholas Kuchova, Vice Chair	P	3	0
Jay Adams	A	2	1
Dudly Etienne-Harvard	P	2	1
Michael Lorigas	P	3	0
Katherine Koenig	P	2	1
William Feinberg	P	3	0
Aaron Baron	A	2	1
Ryan Reiter	P	1	0

**Staff**

Suzy Joseph, Economic Development Representative

Daphnee Sainvil, Government Affairs & Economic Development Manager

**Communication to the City Commission**

No Communications to the Commission.

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

**Vice Chair Kuchova** called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM. Roll was called, and it was noted that there was no quorum at the time. Therefore, minutes cannot be approved, nor official business be conducted. At 3:45 PM a quorum was determined.

**II. Approval of the February 9, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Member William Feinberg and second by Member Katherine Koenig. The motion was passed unanimously.

**III. Old Business**

**IV. New Business**

**Area of Concentration Updates**

**Chair Stara:** Due to absent no report given

**Vice Chair Kuchova:** Connections with Embassy International

Report: Suggested that Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities provide the board with an update on the sister cities relationships and opportunities for the City and County to collaborate in the efforts.

The board introduced themselves and welcomed new board member Ryan Reiter



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**Member Lorigas:** EDAB Liaison to relevant City board/committee meetings

Report Update: In the process of reviewing the past minutes and agenda of the various City advisory boards and committees, examining past discussions to identify where the board can fill in the gaps. At the April 12<sup>th</sup> board meeting, Mr. Lorigas plans to present a comprehensive report summarizing his findings and how the board can collaborate with other boards, in an effort to facilitate and achieve the goals of the board.

**Member Baron:** Franchise Convention status report

Absent- No report provided.

**Suzy Joseph:** Advised the board that the franchise convention communication will be presented to the Commission on April 5<sup>th</sup> and strongly encouraged Aaron Baron or any other board member who supports the motion to attend the Commission meeting to answer any questions or concerns that the commission may have about the topic.

**Member Feinberg:** Added that the County and the City of Fort Lauderdale should better collaborate to improve the economic opportunities of the community. He stated that there should be an influential voice that can mediate between both parties, as it has been done in the past.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Reiterated that the board communications will be presented during the April Commission meeting due to her schedule and availability. In addition, she strongly recommends that Member Barron attend the April (Tuesday) Commission meeting at 6:00 pm to answer any technical questions about the Franchise communications. Any communication made to the commission moving forward, should include a board member to support the motion at the Commission meeting, and if that board member cannot attend, she should receive the full detailed information accompanying the communication.

As for the CRA Communication, she also commented that the County and State may not be eager to expand CRA. If this is the case, Clarence Woods is working on creating a nonprofit organization that will continue to develop the CRA.

Moreover, she explains that the current Sister Cities organization is underperforming in its efforts and impact, and that a partial in-housing of the Sister Cities program has been discussed.

**Vice Chair Kuchova:** As the Sister Cities relationships are being revitalized it is important to reach out to the consulate. He also asked if the City has reached out the US missions in the UAE to support the City trip to Dubai?

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Responded that the City has been Communicating t with the UAE directly and that communication has been going both ways from both US Embassy from Washington and UAE. Along with the UAE Ambassador who has been facilitating the conversation and making the connections.

**Vice Chair Kuchova:** It is highly encouraged that the Dubai delegation work with the US Embassy for a successful trip

**Daphnee Sainvil:** The delegation has a robust itinerary and plans to bring back great ideas and initiatives. By building the relationship with Dubai and getting sovereign wealth investments, the



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City hopes to potentially implement a tunnel system similar to Dubai's. She also asked what other industries the board would like the City to target.

**Vice Chair Kuchova:** The City has the potential to grow their technology industry due to the massive number of tech companies that occupy the region.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Informed the board of meetings with a company that maps out air traffic control. They are considering relocating to Fort Lauderdale along with pharmaceutical companies from Canada and the UK.

**Member Koenig:** Expressed the interest in the City exploring vertical warehouse spaces and the potential of targeting vertical farming.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Asked the board how they would like the City to be identified as in addition to the night life that exist

**Member Feinberg:** Added an entertainment industry would make a great addition to the City

**Motion** to approve the minutes was made by Member William Feinberg and second by Member Katherine Koenig. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Member Feinberg:** A Sister City Relationship with Greece with the support of the Mayor would be a great opportunity to bring in those Greek businesses.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Cannes France and Britain in the UK are potential Sister Cities that the City is interested in based on their synergies and interests to do business and collaborate. In addition, she mentioned how the City has built relationships with potential sister cities and the process of creating a sister city.

**Member Adams:** Small business and CRA

Absent: No report provided

**Member Feinberg:** Restaurant Industry and GFLCC Real Estate/ Construction

Report: There is a lot of success in the restaurant business, especially when it comes to the speed of the permitting process. Furthermore, he mentioned that there is a large number of capital available for restaurants. He believes the restaurant industry is being heavily invested.

**Member Etienne-Harvard:** EDAB website and social media liaison

Report: I will work with the staff to review the division's website and social media accounts. Additionally, she suggested that the board interview 2-3 businesses within their districts to provide feedback and testimonials for GAED social media and website content. Additionally, it gives commissioners an opportunity to hear what businesses in their districts are saying.



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**Member Koenig: Startups and Tech Hubs**

Report: She will provide Ms. Joseph with her findings. Furthermore, she said that feedback on the Center of Innovation cohorts' programs has been received and that businesses that received the educational component of the program are now in need of technical assistance to start their businesses. Her goal is to follow up with a few hubs to learn more about their long-term plans for their participants, as there may be a disconnect between the participants and the cohort programmers regarding the needs of the business. Research and analysis will be conducted further, and she will provide an update on her research.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Mentioned she is a member of the NSU Innovation Center advisory board, and the City is interested in collaborating with the NSU Innovation Center to open a satellite office in Fort Lauderdale, particularly in the CRA district. In addition, she is planning to hold an EDAB meeting at the center so that all board members can tour the building. She also mentioned the many training programs and benefits available.

**Ordinance No. C-12-11L:**

**Suzy Joseph:** Informed the board that any changes or recommendations of the ordinance C-12-11 will require the approval of the City Commission.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Clarification from the CAO regarding the highlighted statement below is being reviewed and may have been in relation with the Budget Advisory board in the past, due to how the division was housed. Currently all funding allocations are under the GAED division.

Clarification is needed on the following statement:

ORDINANCE NO. C-12-11

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- (3) To advise the City Commission on specific issues regarding local, national and international business recruitment, retention and expansion.
- (4) To recommend funding allocations to organizations which will complement the City's promotional efforts based upon a budget provided to the Board by the City Commission.
- (5) To advise the City Commission on types of cultural activities that simultaneously support the cultural community and promote economic development in the City.
- (d) The Board shall select its own chairman chairperson and shall adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of its meetings.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Additionally, she clarified that she would provide further information on excused absences following her review and discussion with internal personnel

**V. Discussion and Final Remarks**



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**Action Item:** Discuss the EDAB Fiscal Goals at the April EDAB meeting and have Chair Stara and Member Baron provide their feedback on the Ordinance.

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by member Feinberg and second by member Koenig. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

**VI. Next Meeting: April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM; City Hall, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Rm.**

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