



City of Fort Lauderdale
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
May 11, 2022, 3:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Michael Stara, Chair	P	4	1
Jay Adams	P	4	1
Dudly Etienne-Harvard	A	3	2
Michael Lorigas, Vice Chair	P	4	1
Katherine Koenig	P	4	1
William Feinberg	P	4	1
Aaron Baron	A	2	3
Ryan Reiter	P	3	0

Staff

Suzy Joseph, Economic Development Representative
Amber Cabrera, Senior Management Fellow (absent)
Daphnee Sainvil, Government Affairs & Economic Development Manager (absent)

Communication to the City Commission

No Communication to the Commission.

I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Chair Stara called the meeting to order at 3:13 PM. Roll was called, and it was noted that there was a quorum.

II. Approval of the March 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes

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

III. Old Business

1. Areas of Concentration: Present a recap for members absent at the April 13, 2022 meeting

Michael Lorigas: Stated that he would like to change his area of concentration after the realization of the magnitude of time needed to attend every Advisory board, he found it to be unmanageable. He also mentioned due to the lack of focus of some boards, he added that in order for some sort of collaboration to occur with other boards, the EDAB must first define the specific issues that they want to address. As a result, Mr. Lorigas has decided to focus his area of concentration on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues.

2. EDAB Fiscal Goals

Board Members: Board members discussed the motion for changes to and adoption of new fiscal goals for 2022.

Board Members: A motion was made by Member William Feinberg that the following statement be included as a yearly goal for Fiscal Year 2020-2022, and a second was made by Member Ryan Reiter. The motion was unanimously approved.



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New Fiscal Goal: “Engage with the City Commission more in discussing the board's goals, which includes the attendance of each City Commissioner to attend one of the EDAB meetings every year.”

EDAB Fiscal Year 2020 Goals:

- Expand Community Footprint via increased engagement and participation from citizen/residents, associations, other city boards.
- Outreach via City social media Economic Engine Focused Presentations.

3. Business Interviews

Chair Stara: Reminded the board of the business interviews

Board Members: The board mentioned a few businesses that have been interviewed or will interview and will attempt to complete their interviews by the next meeting, emphasizing the focus on small businesses.

Member Reiter: It would be interesting to receive a list of companies that track businesses that open in the City of Fort Lauderdale- specifically, the LA movie studio.

Action Item: Identify the best report that can be developed to track the new businesses opening within the City with Daphnee.

IV. **New Business**

1. Vice Chair Election

There was an election for the Vice Chair position. The nomination was made for Member Michael Lorigas, after a motion was made by Member William Feinberg and then seconded by Member Katherine Koenig. This motion passed unanimously.

2. Area of Concentration updates:

a. Chair- LGBTQ and Community Reinvestment Act:

Chair Stara- Reported that he has contacted City personnel regarding the banker part of the CRA and due to her busy schedule, he plans to follow up on the conversation.

b. Vice Chair Lorigas- Environmental and Social Governance:

Update- His area of concentration has shifted to major companies that promise shareholders that they will invest in ESG initiatives, and he will identify what types of investments are being made and what aligns with the City and seek out those companies.

c. Member Baron- Franchise Convention motion status: Absent - No report

d. Member Adams- Small business and CRA: No Report

e. Member Feinberg- Restaurant industry and GFLCC Real Estate/Construction Council: No Report

f. Member Etienne-Harvard-Web and Social Media Liaison: Absent- No Report



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g. Member Koenig- Resources to Startups and Tech Hubs:
Reported her involvement with the Innovation Center in which she will use her experience and feedback that she received from innovation center to craft a report

h. Member Reiter- Working with EDO's on best practices and economic development solutions

Board Members: The board asked about the status update of the communication that went to the Commission

Suzy Joseph: Responding to the Communication to the Commission, Mrs. Joseph stated that Daphnee plans on updating the board.

3. Discussion of the topics that were covered during the Colliers presentation.
 - a. Climate Change
 - b. Policy Creation
 - c. Affordable housing
 - d. Workforce

Board Members: A discussion was held regarding workforce, affordable housing, and transportation issues, and the board agreed that more needs to be done to address rent prices and overpriced housing.

Member Adams: Mr. Adams pointed out that markets with walkable, pedestrian friendly streets attract people who are willing to pay high rents. On the other hand, areas that lack walkability will have a higher percentage of low-rent housing.

Chair Stara: Reminded the board that they should prepare for their upcoming interviews at the NSU Innovation Center and prepare area of concentration reports.

Suzy Joseph: Mrs. Joseph informed the board of upcoming business workshops happening every Thursday from 6pm-8pm at the NSU Innovation Center, from June 2nd - September 8th.¹

V. Discussion and Final Remarks

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Reiter and second by Member Lorigas. The motion was passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:21 PM.

VI. Next Meeting: **June 8th 11th @ 3:00 PM; NSU Innovation Center.**

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

¹ Location of the first cohort is now Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce 512 NE 3rd Ave. Fort Lauderdale, FL