



APPROVED

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

June 8, 2022, 3:00 PM | Meeting Minutes

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Michael Stara, Chair	P	5	1
Jay Adams	A	4	2
Dudly Etienne-Harvard	P	4	2
Michael Lorigas, Vice Chair	A	4	2
Katherine Koenig	A	4	2
William Feinberg	P	5	1
Ryan Reiter	P	4	0

Staff

Suzy Joseph, Economic Development Representative (Present)

Amber Cabrera, Senior Management Fellow (Present)

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 4:26 PM. Roll was called, and it was noted that there was no quorum.

Chair Stara Board members were reminded that no meeting will be conducted, and no motions can be voted on.

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

Due to a lack of quorum, the minutes were not approved. However, at the July 13, 2022 meeting, should a quorum be established, the May 9, 2022 and June 8, 2022 draft minutes will be submitted for approval.

III. Old Business

Status of Local Business Interviews

Chair Stara: Asked the board about their success in conducting business interviews

Member Reiter: He reported he successfully arranged interviews with Stiles and MGM constructions, which are both Fort Lauderdale businesses.

Member Feinberg: He noted that he hasn't completed his interviews, but he has spoken with the producer of the wine and food festival, and they are willing to do the interview. He is also working on interviewing Tim Petrillo.

Member Etienne-Harvard: Currently hasn't completed her interviews but will do so by the next meeting.

Chair Stara: He mentioned he had completed his three interviews with Pro-Care Physical Therapy, Egg N' You Diner on Federal, and Wagner Tires on Sunrise. While he found business owners to be a little



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threatened by the video, he recorded his as well and stated that maybe the board will have a different experience during their interviews.

- **Action Item:** Mid-month, Suzy sent an email to the members reminding them that Chairman Stara is encouraging you to secure the maximum number of business interviews as possible.

Member Feinberg: Asked whether the interviews should be recorded.

Suzy Joseph: Reminded the board that the business owner can also fill out the questionnaire if her or she feels more comfortable doing so, as we do not want businesses to feel forced to be recorded.

Chair Stara: Thanked the staff for the opportunity to meet at the NSU Innovation Center and found the experience to be enlightening.

IV. New Business

1. Area of Concentration updates:

- a. Member Adams - Small business and CRA – no report
- b. Member Etienne-Harvard - Web and Social Media Liaison: working with staff on the website and is willing to volunteer her time to support the reconstruction of the Division site.

Member Feinberg: Asked if the board could have access to the Economic Development social media accounts so that relevant content can be posted.

Suzy Joseph: Replied to Mr. Feinberg that the board can only post on social media and tag the economic development account.

- c. Member Feinberg - Restaurant industry and GFLCC Real Estate/Construction Council: No report.

Member Feinberg: If more vibrant members aren't added to the board, he fears the board will fall apart. Furthermore, he mentioned the email he received from the Mayor's office regarding vacancies on different advisory boards across the city.

Chair Stara: Inquired about the process of recruiting more members and the procedure to recruit more members to the board.

Suzy Joseph: Will contact the City Clerk to assist with the recruitment of more members.

Member Etienne- Harvard: She expressed concern that board members feel as though their efforts are not being heard or pushed to the commissioners. In addition, she said, everyone on the board is working to make a difference, and she would like the Commissioners to hear what they have to say and see what can be done to ensure their recommendations are implemented.



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Member Feinberg: When Scott came into the board meeting in the conference room, the board suggested to him to invite the Mayor to say a few words at the EDAB meeting in order to show you are interested in what the board says.

Chair Stara: Suggested that both the board and City Commission speak about what can be accomplished within the year with the City Commission's blessing

Member Feinberg: Added that three council members are resigning

Chair Stara: Let's start with the Mayor. E-mail him and invite him to attend board meetings. Let him know board members are eager to be helpful to the City and would like feedback and support from the Mayor on economic development.

Member Feinberg: Will email the Mayor's office to invite him to the July 13th meeting

Member Etienne Harvard: Is interested in helping edit the members interviews and will assist in any way she can

Member Feinberg: Asked where the members video will be posted and whether it will take long for the edited version of the video to be released

Suzy Joseph: Generally, the City's Strategic Communications department edits and finalizes the recorded interviews for posting on the division's social media and website.

- d. Member Koenig - Resources to Startups and Tech Hubs: Absent - No report
- e. Vice Chair Lorigas- EDAB Liaison to relevant City board/committees' meetings:
Absent-No report
- f. Member Reiter-EDO's Best Practices and Economic Development solutions
No report- but stated that after next Alliance meeting, he will provide an update
- g. Chair Stara- LGBTQ+ and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)
He reported that he discussed the bank portion of the Community Reinvestment Act with Clarence Woods and Katherine, and that for Jay's question he should contact his main financier and ask him specifically about his low-income projects to determine if CRA funds are available. The Community Reinvestments Act requires banks to prove to the Governor they are lending to disadvantageous customers.



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2. Division Manager Report

Suzy Joseph: Mrs. Joseph stated that Daphnee was unable to be present due to health issues and that she would send a report to the board by email.

3. EDAB Interviews

EDAB interviews were completed at the NSU Innovation Center by all present board members.

V. Next Meeting: July 13th at 3:00 PM

Chair Stara adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm

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