



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

March 8, 2023, at 3:00 PM

www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab

Meeting Minutes

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Michael Stara, Chair	P	3	0
Enrique Bargioni, Vice Chair	P	3	0
Jay Adams	P	2	1
Dudly Etienne-Harvard	A	1	2
William Feinberg	P	3	0
Kenneth Herz	P	2	1
Russ Klenet	P	2	1
Kevin Cochrane	P	1	0

Staff

Suzy Joseph, Economic Development Representative/EDAB Staff Liaison (Absent)
 Amber Cabrera, Administrative Supervisor (Present)
 Daphnee Sainvil, Government Affairs & Economic Development Division Manager (Present)

Communication(s) to the City Commission

The City should continue to support local arts & culture events such as the Visit Lauderdale Food & Wine Festival and the monthly events in FATVillage in either in-kind support or sponsorship. As these events are an economic driver. They enhance the quality of life and therefore the attractiveness of the city.

Recommend expanding the circuit contract to expand the program and its base.

I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Chair Stara called the meeting to order at 3:02PM. Roll was called, and it was noted that there was a quorum.

Action Item – Staff to create name tags for board members.

II. Guest Speaker, District 4 Chief of Staff Ryan Thomas

Mr. Thomas provided a brief description of his background and the Vice Mayor’s goals as a commissioner in his district with the business community. Chair Stara voiced that he would like to know if the commissioner is interested in developing incentives for economic development. Board members voiced their desire to have clearer direction from the commission; their interest in becoming more involved with the goals of the commissioners; and their sentiment of feeling underutilized.

Member Klenet suggested that the board presents the commission with ideas for tax incentives for small business to move from Miami to Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Thomas thanked the board for their willingness to serve and assist the city. Mr. Thomas advised that he speak with the Vice Mayor and staff to seek other opportunities for the board’s involvement.



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III. Approval of the January 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the January 12, 2023, draft minutes was made by Vice Chair Bargioni and seconded by Mr. Feinberg. The motion was passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business

Member Feinberg provided a recap of the Visit Lauderdale Food and Wine Festival. Advised that the event organizers had all positive remarks about the city and their experience. The event was twice as good as last year in terms of attendance and restaurant participation, public feedback, good mixture of participants from a variety of demographics.

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Discussion was had as to ways the board could provide substantive direction to the Commission. It was suggested that rather than have a commissioner or guest speaker at the next two meetings, that the members collaboratively brainstorm two-three small business targeted industries in Fort Lauderdale, and possibly develop an incentive program.

Motion was made by Member Russ Klenet – the Economic Development Advisory board, with the help of staff, work with a consultant and identify two or three targeted local business industries and prepare possible incentives for those businesses.

Motion was amended by Vice Chair Bargioni to suggest that the members prepare their own ideas of two to three businesses to bring to the next meeting.

Motion was seconded by Member Feinberg. The motion was passed unanimously.

New Business

Area of Concentration Updates

- a) Chair Stara – LGBTQ and Community Reinvestment Act/Venture Capital
Member Stara advised the board that he thought it would be nice if the board would develop a brochure identifying who they were and their individual specialties. He felt it would provide credibility of the board with the public.

Discussion was had regarding the need for a brochure and what it would be used for. Ms. Cabrera provided that members could use the department's contact cards and inquiries could be given to the Division Manager. If it would be permissible – since they are an advisory board – Chair Stara concluded that he would ask his district commissioner if it was permissible to create such a document.



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b) Vice Chair Bargioni – Innovation Companies/Permitting *No Update*

c) Member Adams – Lifestyle and Quality of Life

Met with Alan Hooper head of surtax, and while not much can be done in that area, suggested that the board present a communication to the commission regarding the Circuit agreement, and its possible expansion.

Communication to the Commission: The City should continue the Circuit contract and expand the program and include additional areas of the city.

d) Member Cochrane – TBD *No Update*

e) Member Etienne-Harvard – Web and Social Media Liaison/Film Industry *Absent*

f) Member Feinberg – Restaurant Industry and GFLCC Real Estate/Construction Council

Played the video clip of his interview with the organizer of Visit Lauderdale Food and Wine Festival.

g) Member Herz – TBD *No Update*

h) Member Klenet – Liaison Broward Workshop

Communicated to the board that the Broward Workshop will be having the State of the County event in March

Division Report

Daphnee Sainvil, Manager

No Update

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Member Klenet and seconded by Vice Chair Bargioni. The motion was passed unanimously.

V. Meeting adjourned at 4:34 PM.

The next meeting will be held on April 12, 2023

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