



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

April 12, 2023, at 3:00 PM

www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab

Meeting Minutes

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Michael Stara, Chair	P	4	0
Enrique Bargioni, Vice Chair	P	4	0
Jay Adams	P	3	1
William Feinberg	P	4	0
Kenneth Herz	A	2	2
Russ Klenet	P	3	1
Kevin Cochrane	P	2	0

Staff

Amber Cabrera, Administrative Supervisor (Present)

Daphnee Sainvil, Government Affairs & Economic Development Division Manager (Absent)

I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Chair Stara called the meeting to order at 3:11PM. Roll was called, and it was noted that there was no quorum.

Quorum was established at 3:13PM

Announcement of Member Dudley Etienne-Harvard resignation of the board was made by Chair Stara.

II. Approval of the March 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the March 8, 2023, draft minutes was made by Vice Chair Bargioni and seconded by Mr. Feinberg. The motion was passed unanimously.

III. Old Business Discussion – Incentive Ideas for Business Community

Chair Stara opened the discussion by asking the board to come up with a concrete set of speakers and what they hoped to accomplish within the next six months.

Member Bargioni suggested capitalizing on using ArtServe for Food and Wine festival events next year. Discussion continued and it was concluded that there needs to be a cultural aspect for that location to be a good fit. Also, the location may not be conducive for catered events.

Chair Stara asked staff for an update on the communications sent to the commission

Ms. Cabrera read the communications and provided the response:

Communication to the 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.



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Response:

Staff will continue to support such initiatives

Ms. Cabrera also advised the board that the Commission has requested a joint workshop with the board, and it is scheduled for June 6, 2023, 11:30am. Ms. Cabrera explained the purpose of the joint workshop and the expectations of the workshop.

Member Adams would like to discuss financial support of MASS district and FATVillage events. Member Adams will communicate with event organizers and obtain their budget to see how the city can further support their events.

Chair Stara requested Member Adams to obtain a two-pager of their events, how it benefits the city, and what they are seeking from the City. Asked Member Adams to send the proposal to staff by the end of the month.

Member Cochrane discussed the board bringing to the Commission opportunities to incubate and recruit more startups to Fort Lauderdale. Member Cochrane introduced the concept of Refresh Miami, a virtual marketplace for the tech community startup companies can post events and recruit local talent. He would like the board to suggest that the Commission mirror what Miami did and financially support the creation of this online platform in Fort Lauderdale at the joint workshop.

After further discussion the members suggested that Member Cochrane work with the County, Broward Alliance and/or the Levan Center to secure funding for this initiative.

Member Cochrane offered to write a two-pager outlining the economic impact of a platform like this and why the City should invest in it. He was encouraged to do so by other members.

Chair Stara advised that the board needs to focus on providing suggestions to the Commission of incentive programs such as payment in lieu of taxes, reduced utilities, etcetera and possibly hiring a company to do an analysis of the City to identify the key industries in the City.

Member Klenet proposed that before they request the commission to hire a firm, they first inquire as to whether the City has done such an analysis

Chair Stara recapped the conversation by outlining key steps to be addressed: If an incentive package study has occurred and what was the result. If not, then as a board would do a motion or discuss it at the joint workshops about what we could reasonably do. And have an opportunity to convince the commission to do such a study and that it would be dollars well spent.

Member Klenet furthered the conversation by saying that they as a board could discuss with other key members of the community who have expertise in this area and provide a recommendation to the commission as to who to enlist for such a project.



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Member Bargioni suggested that they also investigate what incentives the Alliance provided to business.

Chair Stara agreed and opened the floor for any other topics to be brought up at the workshop or to be a part of the board’s goals.

Member Bargioni brought up three areas of concern he sees rising in major cities around the country: curfews in Miami Beach in response to spring break mayhem; closing of big chain stores in major cities across the nation due to violence and blatant shoplifting; and homelessness/squatters in major cities.

Discussion was had amongst the board members. Consensus was that while these are important issues, they are not issues that would be addressed by this board.

IV. Division Report

Daphnee Sainvil, Manager

City Commission Update – Joint Workshop scheduled for June 6, 2023, 11:30am

Outcome of Communication sent to Commission for April 4th meeting

- Support of local events – confirmed
- Expansion of circuit was approved by commission on the March 8th meeting

General Update:

- Visit Florida: State funding for tourism may be reduced, we are looking at other options
- The trip to DC with Vice-Mayor Sturman, Commissioner Beasley-Pitman and the City Manager was successful. Garnered letters of support for key City initiatives.
- Select USA Invest Summit: Division manager will be in attendance on behalf of the City to attract global investment.
- Duisburg Delegation: three representatives from our sister city of Duisburg, Germany will be visiting the city on climate resilience initiative.

V. Member Discussion

Chair Stara provided a recap of initiatives. Member Cochrane is to reach out to the Alliance and the Levan center regarding his tech industry initiatives and Member Adamas is to coordinate with Mass District event organizers for a proposal on how the City can support their programming. Member Bargioni is to gather more information from the county and other organizations regarding business incentives

VI. New Business

Area of Concentration Updates/ Committee Reports – no updates were made

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

VII. Meeting adjourned at 4:28 PM.

The next EDAB meeting will be May 10, 2023

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