



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

January 10, 2024, at 3:00 PM

www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab

Meeting Minutes

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Michael Stara, Chair	P	9	1
Enrique Bargioni, Vice Chair	P	10	0
Jay Adams	P	9	2
William Feinberg	P	10	0
Russ Klenet	A	6	2
Jadicineia Bess	A	1	3
Mark Giarratano	P	4	0
Nicolas Kollias	P	1	0

Staff

Von Howard, Administrative Supervisor (Present)
 Melissa Mata, Management Fellow (Present)
 Daphnee Sainvil, Public Affairs Division Manager (Not Present)
 Trisha Logan, Principal Urban Planner (Present)
 Alfred Battle, Deputy Director of DSD (Present)

I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Chair Micheal Stara called the meeting to order at 3:07PM. Roll was called, and it was noted that there was a quorum present.

Quorum was established at 3:07pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Stara carried a motion to approve the EDAB Minutes from the meeting that took place on Wednesday, January 10th. Motion passed; EDAB Minutes were approved at 3:08pm.

III. New Business

Motion for Virtual Participation

Chair Stara carried a motion to approve the virtual participation of Member, Russ Klenet. No member opposed; motion passed. Member Klenet was able to join the meeting virtually and acknowledged he could not vote in any Advisory Business while attending online.

New Member Introduction

Chair Stara requested all members in the room to introduce themselves for the new appointed member, Nico Kollias. Members announced their name, their business background, and who they were appointed by.

IV. Speakers, Himmarshee Revitalization Project, from Development Services Department (DSD)

Trisha Logan, the Principal Urban Planner, and Alfred Battle, the Deputy Director for DSD, provided a comprehensive overview of efforts of the Himmarshee Revitalization Project. Trisha



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began by explaining the Himmarshee area covers 17 properties within and a few additional ones outside Himmarshee street. Stakeholder engagement was a focal point, involving one-on-one meetings and the City hosted an open house to gather public feedback on improvement priorities. Concerns voiced by area residents during the Open House primarily centered around the desire for diverse businesses to address safety and cleanliness issues. Additionally, discussions spanned revitalizing the historic entertainment district and exploring opportunities for the downtown area.

Members discussed property ownership, proposed overpasses, and potential impacts on retail and restaurant spaces. Noise complaints and challenges in obtaining permits and historic preservation approvals were also addressed. Members and DSD City Staff engaged in dialogues on the historic preservation process and heard the members' ideas on alternative management structures. Members mentioned the difficulty in making changes to historic properties due to regulations and safety concerns, understanding the importance of preserving the essence of these properties while still making improvements. Members suggested drafting a recommendation to the City Commission to make the process more efficient. Members requested to have item on agenda for next meeting.

Suggestions were made for green space development in a small downtown area, with a focus on expanding existing parks and open space based on city growth. DSD Speakers stated the Parks and Recreation Department has a master plan aimed at redeveloping and building new parks throughout the city through the Parks Bond. Members discussed pedestrian safety and foot traffic in downtown areas. Committee members suggested the design of bike-friendly lanes to enhance foot traffic and support local businesses. Members continued to request a City Staff from Transportation and Mobility to speak on pedestrian safety and bike lanes in the city.

V. Division Report

The meeting transitioned to Division Reports with discussions on city board vacancies and the City's push to fill Advisory Board vacancies. City liaisons reminded members of the Reimagining City Hall Workshop Series.

The meeting concluded with two crucial action items identified for future meetings. Next meeting, members requested a City Staff from Parks and Recreation Department to talk about greenspace and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Parks Bond. This presentation is anticipated to provide valuable insights into the city's approach on greenspace development. Additionally, for the April meeting, members requested to have the Transportation and Mobility Department share insights and updates on pedestrian safety and increase in foot traffic.



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VI. Meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM.

The next EDAB meeting will be March 13, 2024 at DSD Building

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