

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

There was a meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in Training Room A2-230 of the County Administration Building A, 1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Note: You may hear an audio of the meeting and review the agenda and minutes on the IRC website - www.ircgov.com/Boards/EDC/2009.

EDC Members Present

Andrea Coy, City of Sebastian
Bill Kenyon, Town of Indian River Shores
Penny Chandler, IR Chamber of Commerce (IRCOC)
Derek Zimmerman, Manufacturing Appointee
Linda Schlitt-Gonzalez, Member-At-Large
Scott Carson, Real Estate
Gwenda Thompson, Workforce Solutions
Susan Adams, City of Fellsmere
William Penney, Banking Appointee
Charlie Wilson, City of Vero Beach
Peter Robinson, Local Developer
Doug Bournique, Local Industry
James Kretsch, Member-At-Large
Debbie MacKay, School Board
Talmage Rogers, Jr., Citrus Industry

EDC Members Absent

Jan Pagano, Civic Organization
Andrew Kennedy, Member-At-Large
Scott Stradley, BCC Appointee
Deb Branwell, Town of Orchid
Victor Hart, Gifford Community
Donald Wright, Sebastian Chamber of Commerce
Keith Kite, Tourist Industry

Others Present

Helene Caseltine, Alternate for the IRCOC
Dr. Clifford Bragdon, Florida Institute of Technology
Kelley McCabe Ruff, e-Mindful, Inc.

IRC Staff

Peter O'Bryan, EDC Non-Voting Commissioner Liaison
Sasan Rohani, Long Range Planning Chief
Bill Schutt, Senior Economic Development Planner
Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant, District 4

Call to Order

Chairman Schlitt-Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Presentation by Dr. Clifford Bragdon, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at the Florida Institute of Technology (F.I.T), on Global Center for Preparedness.

Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan introduced Dr. Clifford Bragdon.

Dr. Bragdon presented a PowerPoint Presentation on: The Global Center for Preparedness (GCP), of which stimulations create potential alternatives /strategies, and three dimensional planning in relation to Economic Development, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He explained the GCP was organized to integrate the preparation for and the response to natural and man-made disasters as well as promote a sustainable and resilient infrastructure to protect physical assets and human life. He mentioned the Third Annual Conference on Global Center for Preparedness to be held on December 8, 9 and 10, 2009 in Melbourne, Florida.

Approval of the EDC Minutes of October 20, 2009

ON MOTION BY Mr. Robinson, SECONDED BY Mr. Kretsch, the members voted unanimously (15-0) to approve the meeting minutes of October 20, 2009 as presented.

Local Jobs Grant and QTI Application for e-Mindful, Inc.

Ms. Caseltine introduced Ms. Kelly McCabe, CEO/Founder, eMindful, Inc. She indicated eMindful proposed to expand its operation within Indian River County and bring approximately 100 new above average paying jobs to the County.

Ms. McCabe provided detailed information about eMindful, Inc. in her PowerPoint Presentation, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. She stated e-Mindful, Inc. was an internet based integrated health care provider that specialized in providing video conferencing classes in stress reduction, weight and pain management, conflict resolutions, addiction recovery and personal growth.

A question was raised on how the County would verify that the actual jobs created by eMindful were located in Indian River County. Mr. Bill Schutt, IRC Senior Economic Development Planner, stated the jobs would be documented through Unemployment Insurance Compensation Quarterly Report submitted to the state.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Robinson, SECONDED BY Ms. Thompson, the members voted unanimously (15-0) to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve a local jobs grant of up to \$550,000 payable over a three year period for eMindful Inc. if located in the City of Vero Beach/Indian River County Enterprise zone or \$500,000 payable over a three year period if located in Indian River County, but outside of the City of Vero Beach/Indian River County Enterprise Zone.

Mr. Carson asked if the County would provide a quarterly report on the performance of the companies that are approved for a local jobs grant. Mr. Schutt stated the first report for eMindful Inc., SpectorSoft and OcuCue, LLC would be due at the end of March 2010 and presented to the EDC at their April 2010 meeting.

Economic Development Report – Ms. Helene Caseltine, IRCOC

Ms. Caseltine provided a brief recap of the Chamber's Economic Development Report for October/November, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Ms. Thompson complimented Ms. Caseltine on her work with Economic Development in the County.

Ms. Caseltine distributed copies of the Economic Development Incentives Brochure, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. She also mentioned the Economic Gardening Initiative (which focuses on small businesses with 10 to 99 employees that have the potential for growth) started taking reservations for workshops/boot camps.

Other Matters

Councilmember Coy briefly discussed the tax abatement ordinance approved by voters permitting the City of Sebastian to create an ordinance allowing tax abatements for new or expanding businesses which were creating new jobs locally. Councilmember Wilson stated the City of Vero Beach planned to place a tax abatement referendum on the ballot in November 2010.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.