

ENTERPRISE ZONE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

There was a meeting of the Indian River County (IRC)/City of Vero Beach (COVB) Enterprise Zone Development Agency (EZDA) on Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. in the First Floor Conference Room "A" at the County Administration Building, 1840 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman Karl Zimmermann, Local Code Enforcement Appointee; Vice Chairman Gwenda Thompson, Workforce Development Board Appointee; Roland Guilbault, Scott Stradley and Milton Thomas, Member-at-Large Appointees; Penny Chandler, Indian River Chamber of Commerce Appointee; William Shelly, Resident in Enterprise Zone (EZ) Appointee; Anne Douglas, Business in EZ Appointee; Joseph Chiarella, Financial or Insurance Appointee; and Richard Lane, Local Law Enforcement Appointee (arrived at 8:50 a.m.).

Absent were members: IRC Commissioner Joseph E. Flescher, and Bill Fish, COVB, non-voting Liaisons (all excused).

Also present were IRC staff: Stan Boling, Planning Director; Bill Schutt, Senior Economic Development Planner; Sasan Rohani, Chief Long Range Planning; and Terri Collins-Lister, Staff Assistant IV. Others present were: Helene Caseltine, EZ Coordinator.

Call to Order

Chairman Zimmermann called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

ON MOTION BY Ms. Chandler, SECONDED BY Mr. Guilbault, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the March 8, 2007 meeting minutes as presented.

Expedited Permit Process

Mr. Stan Boling, IRC Planning Director, reviewed the information contained in his memorandum, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office, on how effective fast tracking (expedited permitting) has been in relation to target industries. He remarked a lot of the process was not waiting to be reviewed by the County, but the client figuring out design issues.

Ms. Chandler asked if the County staff stayed in contact with the client throughout the process. Mr. Boling responded in the affirmative and explained the projects were prioritized, and then a planner would be assigned to the client until the inspection process.

Mr. Shelly questioned if a site plan was necessary if a client was doing a renovation on a property. Mr. Boling responded if the client was doing tenant improvements completely inside an existing building, no site plan would be required as long as it was not changing from one major category of use to another.

After a brief discussion on prioritizing expedited permitting, Mr. Stradley encouraged better communication to make businesses aware of the process for targeted industries.

Mr. Lane arrived at 8:50 a.m.

Chairman Zimmermann said there had been comments made about the Hillsborough County's super permit processing where targeted industries get permitted within one week. Mr. Boling indicated he had no information on the Hillsborough County permitting process; however he gave examples of the ways some Counties expedite permitting. A discussion followed.

Chairman Zimmermann asked if staff could contact Hillsborough County to get a better understanding of their permit processing and for Ms. Collins-Lister, Recording Secretary, to send an e-mail to the committee members on how the Hillsborough expedited permitting processing works.

New EZDA Board Member Application

Ms. Caseltine, EZ Coordinator, pointed out Ms. Reason no longer served on the EZDA Committee as suggested by the members and noted her husband had an interest in serving as the non-profit member and inquired if there could be an alternate. Ms. Caseltine was unaware of the policy for an alternate. Ms. Chandler suggested getting a list of the non-profits in the EZ or those that serve the residents in the area for potential members.

Ms. Douglas reported with the Vero Beach Municipal Airport renovation, she may move her business located at the airport outside of the EZ and wondered whether she would be able to serve on the committee if her business was not located in the EZ. A discussion followed on a Consideration Committee at the airport in which determines what businesses going in and the concern that Ms. Douglas' business would not be considered. It was suggested for Ms.

Caseltine to invite Mr. Eric Menger, Airport Business Manager, to talk with the EZDA about a Consideration Committee and what was the committee's function, goals, criteria and how it would impact what the EZDA was trying to accomplish.

Ms. Chandler asked if Ms. Collins-Lister could contact the Gifford Youth Activity Center to get a list of non-profit members to review for potential members. Chairman Zimmermann brought up the issue whether the EZDA had the authority to go out and recruit potential members and make recommendations to both the BCC and the City of Vero Beach.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Stradley, SECONDED BY Mr. Guilbault, the members voted unanimously (10-0) to recommend the Board of County Commissioners authorize the Enterprise Zone Development Agency to research, recruit and recommend potential applicants to fill vacancies not associated with the non-liaisons for either the City of Vero Beach or the County on the Enterprise Zone Development Agency.

UNDER DISCUSSION, Ms. Chandler suggested a letter from the Chairman of the EZDA stating the committee was in the process of collecting information and putting together a process for identifying and recommending candidates. Mr. Lane concurred but felt a draft of the internal evaluation process should be in place on how the EZDA would identify and review the applicants before recommending to the BCC.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the Florida Statutes 290.0056. Chairman Zimmermann asked the committee members to review the Florida Statutes 290.0056 prior to the June 14, 2007 meeting to become more familiar with it. Mr. Stradley suggested tabling the motion for further information.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Stradley, SECONDED BY Ms. Chandler, the members voted unanimously (10-0) to table the motion to recommend the Board of County Commissioners authorize the Enterprise Zone Development Agency to research, recruit and recommend potential applicants to fill vacancies not associated with the non-liaisons for either the City of Vero Beach or the County on the Enterprise Zone Development Agency until further information was obtained.

Meeting Dates Revisited

Chairman Zimmermann had asked the committee members to bring their calendars to the May 10, 2007 meeting to see if there were any other common dates to meet other than the regularly scheduled meeting. Hearing no suggestions, Chairman Zimmermann stated the meeting dates would remain as they were and could be revisited at a later time.

Staff Report

Ms. Caseltine handed out a draft copy of the EZ Quarterly Report for the committee to review and asked if anyone had any suggestions or comments to please forward them to her.

Ms. Caseltine reviewed the proposed legislation to reduce the minimum threshold for business equipment purchases to be eligible for reimbursement and noted it did not pass. She mentioned a conference call with Enterprise Florida along with many Economic Development organizations were told anything that had to do with sales tax exemptions and credits were not considered during the session because of the property tax issue.

Mr. Thomas mentioned on July 11, 2007 at 12 noon there would be a legislation wrap-up and the Chamber of Commerce would be presenting awards at the Heritage Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2007 at 8:30 a.m.