

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

There was a meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in Conference Room B1-501 of the County Administration Building B, 1800 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/2012.

EDC Members Present

Aundrea Perry, Gifford Community
Peter Robinson, Local Developer
Penny Chandler, Indian River Chamber of Commerce (IRCOC)
Karl Zimmermann, Member-At-Large
Jerry Weick, Town of Indian River Shores
Beth Mitchell, Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce
Scott Stradley, BCC Appointee
Andrea Coy, City of Sebastian
Claudia Jimenez, School Board
Linda Schlitt-Gonzalez, Member-At-Large
Keith Kite, Tourist Industry

EDC Members Absent

James Kretsch, Member-At-Large
Jay Kramer, City of Vero Beach (COVB)
Richard Stetson, Workforce Solutions
William Penney, Banking Appointee
Scott Carson, Real Estate Appointee
Harris Webber, Town of Orchid
Talmage Rogers, Jr., Citrus Industry
Doug Bournique, Local Industry
Susan Adams, City of Fellsmere

Others Present

Helene Caseltine, IRCOC
Jim O'Connor, COVB
Ed Bierschenk, Press Journal
Jason Nunemaker, City of Fellsmere
Eric Menger, Vero Beach Municipal Airport
Amy Brunjes, Florida Power & Light
Crystal Stiles, Florida Power & Light

Sean Miller, Florida Power & Light
Ryan Fair, Florida Power & Light

IRC Staff

Sasan Rohani, Long Range Planning Chief
Bill Schutt, Senior Economic Development Planner
Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant, District 4

Call to Order

Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. There was no quorum present at the time.

Presentation and Update by Florida Power & Light (FPL) on the Status of their Discussions with the City of Vero Beach Utilities

Ms. Amy Brunjes, External Affairs, FPL, introduced Mr. Ryan Fair, Mr. Sean Miller, Negotiations Team and Ms. Crystal Stiles, Economic Development Project Manager Division. She gave a brief summary of the City of Vero Beach (COVB) Utilities Negotiations and economic development activities.

Mr. Fair gave a FPL Update on the negotiations with the COVB Utilities in his PowerPoint Presentation, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Fair stated FPL was the largest electric utility and had the lowest electric rates as well as being the largest taxpayer and investor in the State of Florida. He indicated FPL had been going through the process of buying the electric utility from the COVB for almost a year and it was a very complex transaction; however, FPL felt the transaction would be significant savings to Vero Beach utility customers.

Mr. Fair indicated FPL's current offer for the COVB's electric utility was \$132,700,000 to date and summarized the negotiations:

- FPL was making steady progress
- 3rd party contracts & obligations
- Additional due diligence (real estate, employees, technical issues, power plant and transmission upgrades, inventory control, etc.)

Mr. Fair stated FPL was focused on reaching an agreement with the COVB that benefited all parties.

Ms. Crystal Stiles, Economic Development Project Manager, summarized in her PowerPoint Presentation the FPL's Office of Economic Development, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. She indicated FPL established the Office of Economic Development about one year ago. The Office of Economic Development was working to implement a strong program through FPL that would partner with the state and local economic development organizations and support new business and expansion needs such as:

- Support environmentally responsible economic growth
- Attract new businesses to the state

Ms. Stiles mentioned the Powering Florida Approach created a portal into FPL for external economic development requests and assistance as well as create value for the state of Florida through support of existing programs such as Enterprise Florida, Florida Chamber of Commerce and other Economic Development Councils and Business Development Boards with innovative programs.

Ms. Stiles detailed the Special Electric Service Rate for Businesses available to new or expanding businesses provides a discount base energy and demand charges. She indicated there was a threshold of 10 new jobs per 350 kilowatts of added load and noted if the company was re-using a vacant building per a period time they would receive a five-year better benefit.

Ms. Stiles stated the Economic Development Rate was helping companies grow and add job opportunities. She added three companies were already on the program with 91 new jobs created and FPL had three agreements pending for a total of 960 potential jobs. She gave an example of how the Cheney Brothers were looking to expand and stay in the State of Florida; however, the State of Georgia made a very competitive offer. She added with a combination of state and local incentives along with FPL's economic development rates secured the project for Charlotte County. She showed a video on Cheney Brother's new facility in Charlotte County.

Ms. Stiles mentioned several resources available online in the coming months:

- Powering Florida website
- A very powerful recruitment tool primarily in the first phase targeted toward site selection consultants considering 35 county service territories as a location.
- Local Training Program – Powering Florida Seminar Series – “Playing to Win in Economic Development”

Ms. Stiles concluded FPL’s Office of Economic Development would provide assistance with closing the deal and locating new businesses.

A discussion ensued on the COVB’s Power Plant, the pensions of the existing employees that would be affected by the FPL transaction and smart meters.

Economic Development Activities – Ms. Helene Caseltine, IR Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Caseltine mentioned an individual from South Florida, who wanted to restart commercial airline service to the Vero Beach Municipal Airport. She said the individual met with a number of individuals including Eric Menger, Vero Beach Municipal Airport and the Board of County Commissioners. She added the individual’s biggest obstacle was money; however, three potential investors had shown interest.

Ms. Caseltine gave an update on the International Economic Development Conference in St. Louis, Missouri and announced the Seven Counties/50 year Summit scheduled for June 27, 2012 in Delray Beach.

Other Matters

Mr. Keith Kite stated the proposed Publix at 53rd Street and U.S. Highway 1 was scheduled to break ground on September 1, 2012 with an anticipated opening date of April 17, 2013.

Chairman Mitchell reiterated there were no meetings scheduled for the months of July and August, contingent upon if there would be a Local Jobs Grant Application.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.