

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

There was a meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 3:35 p.m. in Conference Room B1-501 of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> 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/2013](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/EDC/2013).*

### **EDC Members Present**

Karl Zimmermann, Member-At-Large  
Don Wright, City of Sebastian  
Jerry Weick, Town of Indian River Shores  
Beth Mitchell, Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce  
Penny Chandler, Indian River Chamber of Commerce (IRCOC)  
Mark Castlow, Manufacturing  
Todd Howder, Member-At-Large  
David Sullivan, Indian River State College  
Sara Savage, City of Fellsmere  
William Penney, Banking Appointee (arrived 4:00 p.m.)  
Scott Stradley, BCC Appointee  
Claudia Jimenez, School Board  
Jay Kramer, City of Vero Beach (COVB)  
Linda Schlitt-Gonzalez, Member-At-Large  
Doug Bournique, Local Industry (arrived 3:40 p.m.)

### **EDC Members Absent**

Keith Kite, Tourist Industry  
Harris Webber, Town of Orchid  
Talmage Rogers, Jr., Citrus Industry  
Peter Robinson, Local Developer  
Aundrea Perry, Gifford Community  
Richard Stetson, Workforce Solutions  
Scott Carson, Real Estate Appointee

### **Others Present**

Helene Caseltine, IRCOC  
Laurie Collings, Manpower  
Milt Thomas  
Joe Griffin, City of Sebastian  
Mona Cazeau  
Maxine Cazeau

## **IRC Staff**

Tim Zorc, Commissioner Liaison  
Bob Keating, Community Development Director  
Sasan Rohani, Long Range Planning Chief  
Bill Schutt, Senior Economic Development Planner  
Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. She made an adjustment to the meeting agenda, moving Agenda Item 7.A. – “An overview of the Board of County Commissioner’s review of the Proposed 2013 Economic Development Goals and Objectives at their May 21, 2013 meeting by Commissioner Liaison Tim Zorc” after the Approval of the April Meeting Minutes.

## **Approval of the EDC Minutes of April 16, 2013**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Zimmermann, SECONDED BY Ms. Schlitt-Gonzalez, the members voted unanimously (13-0) to approve the minutes of April 16, 2013 as presented.**

## **An overview of the Board of County Commissioner’s review of the Proposed 2013 Economic Development Goals and Objectives at their May 21, 2013 meeting – Commissioner Liaison Tim Zorc**

Commissioner Liaison Tim Zorc stated the Proposed 2013 Economic Development Goals and Objectives brought to the EDC for discussion and consideration would go through County staff then taken to the BCC for consideration and no action needed to be taken by the EDC.

Commissioner Liaison Zorc announced the BCC voted to look at suspending Impact Fees for a period of 18 months with a phase back period of 25% based on the future established rates identified over the consultant’s study review period at their May 21, 2013 meeting.

Mr. Stradley told the members IRC County Administrator Joe Baird said it would be no problem if the EDC took another look at the Economic Development Budget approved at the April EDC Meeting.

Chairman Mitchell mentioned one of the items on the list for the May EDC Agenda was to bring back the Economic Development Plans put together by the IRCOC a couple of years ago; however, due to time constraints it was decided to

place the agenda item on the June EDC Agenda.

### **Foreign Trade Zone Program**

Ms. Helene Caseltine, IRCOC, handed out a copy to the members the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) Benefits, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. She briefly reviewed the benefits to a company taking advantage of the FTZ Program.

### **EB5 Immigrant Investor Program**

Ms. Caseltine gave an overview of the EB5 Immigrant Investor Program and handed out to the members a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Packet explaining the EB5 Immigrant Investor Program, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. She gave an example of the Florida Organic Aquaculture Facility and noted the bulk of the investors came through the EB5 Immigrant Investor Program. She said the EB5 Immigrant Investor Program assisted a foreign investor who invested at least \$500,000 in a project that created jobs. Contained in the packet was a list of the EB-5 Regional Centers in Florida and some of those centers were specific to certain counties, industries, and projects within the State of Florida.

Ms. Caseltine offered to have someone explain the EB5 Immigrant Investor Program in detail at a future EDC meeting.

### **Expansion of the Enterprise Zone Discussion**

Ms. Caseltine briefly discussed the information contained in her memorandum on the Expansion of Enterprise Zone Boundary, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Ms. Caseltine stated the City of Vero Beach/Indian River County Enterprise Zone compassed an area of four and a half square mile which included the Vero Beach Municipal Airport and the adjacent Gifford Community and could be expanded up to ten square miles. She added IRC could add up to three non-contiguous Enterprise Zones in the unincorporated county; however, those other three areas needed to meet the criteria within the state statutes such as distress, poverty, unemployment, and crime statistics. She said the City of Fellsmere and the City of Sebastian could apply for an Enterprise Zone on their own as long as it was within their city limits. A discussion followed on the Enterprise Zone and Ms. Caseltine indicated the current Enterprise Zone Program was up for sunset review in the year 2015 and would be discussed at the 2014 Legislative Session.

**Playing to Win in Economic Development – Florida Power and Light (FPL) and Florida Enterprise – Ms. Helene Caseltine, IRCOC.**

Ms. Caseltine brought to the committees attention, a FPL sponsored a workshop held on May 13, 2013 called “Playing to Win in Economic Development”, a half-a-day seminar/workshop on the site selection process geared toward elected officials. She handed out a copy of the notes to the members that she had taken during the seminar, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Ms. Caseltine highlighted on the following:

- Play to Your Strengths as a community
- Niche Market
- Show off your Assets
- Companies look at the Elected Officials to be the Leader

Ms. Caseltine mentioned the website, [www.taxfoundation.org](http://www.taxfoundation.org) and stated The Tax Foundation was based in Washington, D.C. and collected data and published research studies on tax policies at the federal and state levels. She noted the State of Florida ranked No. 5 on the index.

Ms. Caseltine reiterated what was stated at the Seminar, wherein, any breach of confidentiality would automatically disqualify a county from the site selector’s list and they would most likely not return to the area.

**Other Matters**

Ms. Penny Chandler brought up a survey conducted on air service and indicated there were 350 responses after ten days of the survey being released, with the majority of the surveys indicating an interest in air service.

Commissioner Liaison Zorc discussed the All Aboard Florida open house held in Fort Pierce in regards to the proposed passenger rail service and indicated it may be an alternative solution to air service if the County could convince All Aboard Florida, that IRC would be a profitable stop. He said he had reached out to the Orlando Aviation Authority’s Executive Director to find out whether there were any passenger statistics they could share to take back to All Aboard Florida with the number of IRC residents traveling to Orlando to catch a flight.

Ms. Caseltine brought up House Bill 4001 and Senate Bill 320 and indicated the House passed legislation repealing the Florida Alternative Fuel Standards Act. She said the IRCOC sent a letter to encourage the Governor to veto the legislation. She felt it would send a bad message that the State of Florida was not welcoming the Alternative Fuel Industry.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.