

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

There was a meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 3:30 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/2014.*

EDC Members Present

Linda Schlitt-Gonzalez, Member-At-Large
William Penney, Banking Appointee
Peter Robinson, Local Developer
Doug Bournique, Local Industry
Scott Carson, Real Estate Appointee
Jerry Weick, Town of Indian River Shores
Karl Zimmermann, Member-At-Large
Jay Kramer, City of Vero Beach (COVB)
Todd Howder, Member-At-Large
Tracey McMorris, CareerSource Florida
Penny Chandler, Indian River Chamber of Commerce (IRCOC)
Peter O'Bryan, Non-Voting Commissioner Liaison

EDC Members Absent

Beth Mitchell, Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce
Harris Webber, Town of Orchid
Jim Hill, City of Sebastian
David Sullivan, Indian River State College
Sara Savage, City of Fellsmere
Aundrea Perry, Gifford Community
Scott Stradley, BCC Appointee
Mark Castlow, Manufacturing
Keith Kite, Tourist Industry
Talmage Rogers, Jr., Citrus Industry
Richard Stetson, Workforce Solutions
Claudia Jimenez, School Board

Others Present

Helene Caseltine, IRCOC
Jim O'Connor, COVB
Tim Zorc, County Commissioner, District 3

IRC Staff

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

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Zimmermann called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. at which time it was determined there was not a quorum present.

Draft Economic Development Positioning Analysis and Action Plan

Ms. Helene Caseltine, IRCOC, updated the members on the status of the Economic Development Positioning Analysis and Action Plan. She said the IRCOC was working with IRC Planning Staff in drafting the Request for Proposal (RFP) to send to qualified consultants for the Economic Development Positioning Analysis. The draft RFP was being finalized; however, it would need to go through the IRC Attorney's Office as well as the Purchasing Division.

Mr. Sasan Rohani, IRC Long Range Planning Chief, said the RFP would be available at the EDC meeting on March 18, 2014 for review and comments.

Ms. Chandler asked if it was required to have EDC approval. Mr. Rohani replied it was not a requirement; however, the process began with the committee. Ms. Chandler felt if it came before the EDC, the process would take longer.

A question was raised whether the RFP could be e-mailed to the members and they could respond back to staff with their comments in order not to further delay the process.

Ms. Caseltine wanted members to look for substantial changes and not change the draft RFP word for word. A discussion followed.

Mr. Rohani said staff could e-mail the RFP to the EDC for review and members could reply with comments. He said staff would make the appropriate changes and then place the matter before the Board of County Commissioners for approval at a future meeting. He would notify the members of the date the draft RFP would be going before the Board of County Commissioners.

A suggestion was made to set a deadline for comments to be submitted to staff after the draft RFP was e-mailed to members.

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

Ms. Caseltine recalled at a previous EDC meeting, the members recommended approval for a local jobs grant for Float-On Corporation based on the creation of 45 new jobs to accommodate a new product line. She continued at the Miami International Boat Show held on February 13, 2014, Float-On announced their new product of which they formed a new company called Island Boats as well as their new product line, an expandable and retractable pontoon boat. She announced Island Boats also won the Inventor of the Year at the Miami International Boat Show.

Ms. Caseltine mentioned an editorial regarding Indian River County in the January/February Edition of Trade Industry Development in the Agricultural Section.

Ms. Caseltine concluded she was working with Indian River School District, Indian River State College, and CareerSource Florida (formerly Workforce Florida) to put together an apprenticeship program for Piper Aircraft.

Ms. Tracey McMorris, CareerSource Florida, announced the Florida's Workforce System was rebranded and was now CareerSource Florida. She indicated in Indian River County, the CareerSource Florida office was located on 82nd Avenue and their mobile unit would be located at 26th Street and 18th Avenue (adjacent to the County Administrative Building on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Gifford Youth Activity Center on Wednesdays and Riverview Park in Sebastian on the first three Fridays of each month.

Other Matters

A discussion ensued on member attendance.

Commissioner Liaison O'Bryan announced the Board approved the second year of INEOS' tax abatement at their February 18, 2014 meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.