

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

A meeting was held of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. in Conference Room B1-501 of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> St., 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/2016](http://www.ircgov.com/Boards/EDC/2016).

### **EDC Members Present**

Peter Robinson, Local Developer  
Sara Savage, City of Fellsmere  
Penny Chandler, Indian River Chamber of Commerce (arrived @ 3:35)  
Beth Mitchell, Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce  
Jay Kramer, City of Vero Beach (COVB)  
Jerry Weick, Town of Indian River Shores  
John Dyer, Local Industry (arrived @ 3:35)  
Linda Schlitt-Gonzalez, Member-At-Large (arrived @ 3:35)  
Shawn Frost, School Board of Indian River County  
Todd Howder, Member-At-Large  
Harris Webber, Town of Orchid  
William Penney, Banking Appointee (arrived @ 3:36)  
Richard Stetson, CareerSource Research Coast  
Keith Kite, Tourist Industry (arrived @ 3:40)  
Commissioner Peter D. O'Bryan, District 4, Non-Voting Commission Liaison

### **EDC Members Absent**

Scott Stradley, BCC Appointee  
Karl Zimmermann, Member-At-Large  
Jim Hill, City of Sebastian  
Jim Funk, Manufacturing Appointee  
Casey Lunceford, IRSC  
Mike Lafferty, Real Estate Appointee  
Joe Idlette III, Gifford Community  
Dan Richey, Citrus Industry

### **Others Present**

Helene Caseltine, Indian River Chamber of Commerce (IRCOC)  
Dick Cantner, IRSC  
Joel Tyson, Mayor, City of Fellsmere  
Jason Nunemaker, City of Fellsmere

### **IRC Staff**

Bill Schutt, Senior Economic Development Planner  
Sasan Rohani, Chief, Long-Range Planning  
Stan Boling, Director, Community Development Department  
Tina Cournoyer, Commissioner Assistant, Recording Secretary

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. The attendance did not reach quorum; however the meeting was called to order with the expectation of members arriving late and a quorum being reached.

## **Presentation from Parabel USA Inc—David Schechtmann, Business Development Manager**

Mr. Schechtmann provided the EDC members a visual explanation the Parabel USA Inc company using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is on file in the commission office. He listed the benefits of their location: abundance of lemna (duckweed), water, flat land, and access to transportation. He reviewed the company's signature, award-winning product "Lentein." He also announced their projected employment growth in three phases:

Phase 1, estimated completion 6 months, 50 jobs

Phase 2, estimated completion 1 year, 100 jobs

Phase 3, estimated completion 2 years, 150 jobs

Mr. Schechtmann took several questions from the members. Topics included mosquito breeding, availability of lemna, job growth projection, company's past experiences, use of nutrients/fertilizers, use for animal feed, recycling of by-products and water. Discussion was recorded and can be heard on the IRC website.

Additional EDC members arrived during the Parabel presentation (Mr. Dyer at 3:33 Ms. Chandler and Ms. Schlitt-Gonzales at 3:35, Mr. Penney at 3:36, and Mr. Kite at 3:40), bringing attendance to number required for quorum.

## **Approval of the EDC Minutes of January 19, 2016**

**ON MOTION BY Ms. Mitchell, SECONDED BY Ms. Savage, the members voted unanimously (14-0) to approve the minutes of January 19, 2016 meeting.**

## **Consideration of Parabel USA Inc's Request for a Local Jobs Grant--Mr. Bill Schutt, IRC Senior Economic Development Planner**

Mr. Schutt passed out a handout and presented a PowerPoint presentation, which are both on file in the Commission office. He described how Parabel USA, Inc is tied to the target industry category of Manufacturing/Warehouse/Distribution, and 41 of their proposed jobs would qualify for a local jobs grant for up to \$177,000.00 over three years. Staff requested for EDC to recommend to Board of County Commission to approve the local jobs grant at the meeting on March 1, 2016.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Weick, SECONDED BY Ms. Mitchell, the members voted unanimously (14-0) to recommend the Board of County Commissioners to approve the local jobs grant for Parabel, USA, Inc.**

## **Other EDC matters**

Ms. Savage announced Shrimpfest would take place February 20-21, 2016.

Meeting attendance was discussed. The Chairman announced to the members to reply to the agenda announcement as soon as possible to ensure a quorum will be present. A suggestion was made for all members to have a named alternate, rather than only the elected members. Commissioner O'Bryan said he would look at the ordinance to see if alternates were allowed. He also announced he would be sending "a gentle nudge" to members with low attendance rate.

Mr. Kite suggested when special projects, such as branding, are presented, the EDC could set up a subcommittee with a specific focus.

Ms. Caseltine reported the Chamber's new economic development stand-alone website was about 2/3 complete. She announced a launch date was not yet set, but could be about 6 weeks away. She also reported Ady Advantage was working on a 4-page community profile and a 2-page industry profile for each target industry.

Ms. Caseltine announced Enterprise FL marketing director, Mr. Joe Hice would be attending the April EDC meeting to present the new marketing campaign "Florida--the future is now."

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned **at 4:12 p.m.**

**Next meeting date: March 15, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.**