

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

A meeting was held of the Indian River County (IRC) Economic Development Council (EDC) on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. in Conference Room B1-501 of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27th St., Vero Beach, Florida. Note: You may hear an audio of the meeting and review the agenda and meeting notes on the IRC website - www.ircgov.com/Boards/EDC/2017.

EDC Members Present

Peter Robinson, Local Developer
Penny Chandler, IRC Chamber of Commerce
Linda Kinchen, City of Sebastian
Linda Schlitt-Gonzalez, Member-At-Large
Brian Bauer, CareerSource Research Coast
William Penney, Banking Appointee
Karl Zimmermann, Member-At-Large
Laura Zorc, School Board of Indian River County
Casey Lunceford, IRSC
Todd Howder, Member-At-Large
Jim Funk, Manufacturing Appointee
John Dyer, Local Industry
Joe Idlette III, Gifford Community
Commissioner Peter D. O'Bryan, District 4, Non-Voting Commission Liaison

EDC Members Absent

Beth Mitchell, Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce
Dan Richey, Citrus Industry
Chad Olson, Tourist Industry
Scott Stradley, BCC Appointee
Bob Auwaerter, Town of Indian River Shores
Val Zudans, City of Vero Beach (COVB)
Sara Savage, City of Fellsmere
Paul Knapp, Town of Orchid
Mike Lafferty, Real Estate Appointee

Others Present

Helene Caseltine, IRC Chamber of Commerce
Laurie Collings, Manpower

IRC Staff

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

Call to Order

Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and noted there was not a quorum in attendance. He asked recording secretary Tina Cournoyer to read a message from Dan Richey announcing his plan to resign from his EDC position.

Update on Parabel Operations--by Mrs. Cecilia Wittbjer, Vice President of Marketing, Parabel USA Inc.

Ms. Wittbjer used PowerPoint slides to provide an overview of Parabel USA Inc's operations in Fellsmere. A copy of her presentation is on file in the Commission office. She explained how their main product, lentein (also known as duckweed), would help with a projected deficit of food and water supply in the future. She proclaimed it is the world's fastest growing crop that grows best in Indian River County, and also is an excellent source of a complete protein.

Ms. Wittbjer showed pictures of both their existing facility in Fellsmere as well as the new plant being developed at SR 60/154th Ave. She announced the new plant would be much bigger and employ more people than the Fellsmere location. She said the company planned to open the new facility in June, and also hoped to expand by 5 more facilities in our area in the near future.

As she spoke, Brian Bauer arrived at 3:33 pm, and Bill Penney arrived at 3:38 pm.

Approval of the EDC Minutes of June 20, 2017

ON MOTION BY Mr. Zimmermann, SECONDED BY Mr. Lunceford, the members voted unanimously (13-0) to approve the minutes of June 20, 2017 meeting.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman:

Chairman Robinson asked for nominations for new chairman. Ms. Chandler nominated Joe Idlette III and Chairman Robinson seconded, but Mr. Idlette declined the nomination. When no other nominations were presented, Chairman Robinson asked if anyone wished to volunteer. The only person to put his name in the hat was Brian Bauer.

ON MOTION BY Ms. Chandler, SECONDED BY Mr. Robinson, the members voted unanimously (13-0) to elect Mr. Brian Bauer as Chairman of the Economic Development Council for 2018.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Zimmermann, SECONDED BY Mr. Dyer, the members voted unanimously (13-0) to re-elect Mr. Joe Idlette III for Vice Chairman of the Economic Development Council for 2018.

Presentation of 2016-2017 Economic Development Annual Report—by Ms. Helene Caseltine, Director of Economic Development

Ms. Caseltine briefly reviewed the Economic Development Annual Report for the fiscal year 2016-2017, which had already been presented to the Board of County Commissioners in December 2017. A copy of this report is on file in the Commission Office, and a recording of her briefing can be viewed on the IRC website. She touched

upon and gave examples of each of the following topics:

Government & private funding, target industry updates, property search website (indianriversites.com), active projects, leads and proposals, advertising, business retention, small business development, economic development website & tools, industry appreciation, and public relations.

Other EDC matters

Commissioner O'Bryan announced EDC vacancies for representatives from citrus industry, real estate industry, and BCC appointee.

Dr. Lunceford announced there would be filming of the IRSC culinary department.

The meeting schedule for 2018 was presented. Feedback was solicited regarding the meeting time and frequency. The members agreed to keep the current monthly schedule, then cancel individual meetings if there was no need to meet.

Chairman Bauer announced CareerSource Research Coast had received funding from two community sector grants in the manufacturing sector and was using the money to start a registered apprenticeship program for 30 participants from the tri-county area of St. Lucie, Indian River, and Martin Counties. He said it was currently in the planning stages. He added they were also planning to create a feeder pre-apprenticeship program, which would also have 30 participants from the tri-county region.

He said the Workforce Readiness Task Force had also been established with four focuses: healthcare, manufacturing, trades, & logistics. Anyone interested could contact Chairman Bauer for more information.

Ms. Zorc suggested to have a School District of Indian River County member present to the EDC regarding the Technical Center scheduled to open in August 2018. She said she would arrange for Christi Shields to present at the March 20, 2018 EDC meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned **at 5:10 p.m.**

Next meeting date: February 20, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.