

ENTERPRISE ZONE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

There was a Special Call meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) / City of Vero Beach (COVB) Enterprise Zone Development Agency (EZDA) scheduled on Thursday, July 30, 2015 at 8:45 a.m. in Conference Room B1-501 at the County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present Were:

Chris Russell, Chairman, Member-at-Large
Karl Zimmermann, Vice-Chairman, Local Code Enforcement
Linda A. Morgan, Member-at-Large
Richard Stetson, Career Source Research Coast
Amelia Graves, City of Vero Beach Councilmember (Non-Voting Member)
Bob Solari, Commissioner Liaison (Non-Voting Member)

Others Present:

Helene Caseltine, IRC Chamber of Commerce
Tina Cournoyer, Commissioner Assistant, Recording Secretary
Bill Shutt, IRC Planning
Sasan Rohani, IRC Planning
Shawn Frost, SDIRC
Ken Daige, City of Vero Beach
Dick Cantner
Dale Doelling

Absent Were:

Penny Chandler, IRC Chamber of Commerce
Eric Menger, Business in EZ (arrived 8:45 a.m.)
Mark Saint-Vincent, Member-at-Large
Richard Lane, Local Law Enforcement
Nicholas Rains, Financial or Insurance Entity
Leroy Smith, Resident in EZ
Godfrey Gipson, Non-profit in EZ

Call to Order

With only four voting members present, there was not a quorum, so Commissioner Solari began the meeting at 8:46 a.m. by announcing his opinion that our EZDA committee should be allowed to die with the sunseting state program.

Sunset of Florida Enterprise Zone Program

Chairman Russell and Ms. Caseltine reiterated that the current state EZDA program will sunset on December 31, 2015. They said the reason for this meeting was to have an open discussion to see what interest there was in ramping up an Indian River County enterprise zone and/or what ideas people might have to add to the program locally.

Possible new or enhanced local incentives to recruit, retain, and expand business in Indian River County--Public Discussion

Much discussion ensued among the committee members and invited guests regarding incentives we had to offer. Ms. Caseltine presented a handout with possible local incentives as well as the incentives that will still be existing in IRC and Florida. Several ideas were stated:

- Eliminate the \$40 annual (renewal) occupational-license tax
- Reduce taxes for businesses that stay in the area
- Reward businesses (tax credits?) that offer good-paying jobs to citizens
- Highlight the assets we have that do not involve raising or shifting taxes

No one in attendance argued that the EZDA committee as it is now should not sunset with the state program, but all wanted to be sure IRC's assets were being advertised. Many attested that Ms. Caseltine sends a very nice package to attract new potential businesses to our area. Commissioner Solari highlighted the IRC incentives. Chairman Russell reminded everyone to "shop locally."

It was suggested possibly to have a sub-committee under the Economic Development Center.

Adjournment

There was no official adjournment; the discussion ended at approx. 9:45.