

**Office of Economic Development  
Economic Development Advisory Board  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** November 1, 2011: **Time:** 7:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rich Adams  
Mitzi Montoya  
Steve Parker  
Jeff Pitcher  
Tony Siebers  
Jo Wilson  
Steve Wood

EX-OFFICIO

Mayor Scott Smith (excused)  
Chris Brady (excused)  
Brian Campbell (excused)  
Jeff Crockett  
Steve Shope (excused)  
Peter Sterling

STAFF PRESENT

Betsy Adams  
William Jabjiniak

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rich Adams (excused)  
Terry Benelli (unexcused)  
Dan Olson (excused)

GUESTS

Roc Arnett  
Warde Nichols  
Cathy Panella  
Lois Yates

**1. Chair's Call To Order**

Chair Jeff Crockett called the November 1, 2011 meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Board to order at 7:45 a.m. at the ASU Polytech Campus, Administration Building/ Conference Room 140, 7001 E. Williams Field Road, Mesa, AZ 85212.

Chair Crockett welcomed back member Mr. Steve Wood after his recovery from a fall off a roof. He thanked Dean Mitzi Montoya, Mr. Warde Nichols, and Ms. Cathy Panella for hosting and providing a tour of ASU Polytechnic Campus.

**2. Items from Citizens Present**

Mr. Roc Arnett invited everyone to attend the East Valley Partnership Economic Forum scheduled for December 5, 2011. The Guest speaker is Stephen Moore, an internationally renowned author, a Wall Street Journal columnist, and a political/economic analyst. The Forum is to be held at The Buttes, 2000 Westcourt Way, Tempe, AZ 85282 from 4-7 p.m.

**3. Approval of Minutes from September 6, 2011 board meeting.**

Chair Crockett called for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 6, 2011.

**MOTION:** Jo Wilson moved that the minutes from September 6, 2011 be approved as written.  
**SECOND:** Tony Seibers  
**DECISION:** Passed unanimously.

**4. Tour of ASU Polytechnic Campus at 7001 E. Williams Field Road**

Ms. Cathy Panella, Office of Public Affairs, Events and Campus Tour Coordinator and Mr. Warde Nichols, Community Outreach Specialist, gave a tour of the Engineering Studios/Labs and the Algae Research Labs.

**5. Other Business**

Chair Crockett reminded the EDAB members the next scheduled meeting is on December 6, 2011, 57 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, City Council Chambers, Lower Level, Mesa, AZ 85201.

Mr. William Jabjiniak commented on October 17, 2011 the Council took action on a Cubs Development Agreement, an Option Agreement, and in addition a contract with Hunt Construction. Progress is being made, but there will be a slight delay in the ground breaking. The golf course will remain open until the end of April 2012.

Mr. Jabjiniak announced the resignation of Mr. Dan Olson on the EDAB Board due to a transfer back to Minneapolis, Minnesota. A replacement will be sought. He also expressed condolences on the sudden unexpected passing of Mr. Robert Brinton, CEO of the Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mr. Milt Fort has been named the Interim CEO until a replacement can be found.

The Higher Education Initiative site visits have been progressing. Several colleges have visited during the month of October and will continue into the month of November and December. Mr. Jabjiniak thanked everyone for their participation in the site visits and especially thanked Ms. Jo Wilson for her level of support in participating during the site visits.

The First Solar plant is on track to be up and running in late spring of 2012.

All city offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25th.

There have been several staff changes. Mr. Patrick Murphy has been selected for the City Managers Executive Assistance Program and is currently up on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor until the end of January. Ms. Shelly Allen announced her retirement as of February 1, 2012. Mr. Shea Joachim is out of the office until November 21st upon the birth of his new baby boy.

Mr. Jabjiniak announced the AZ Commerce Authority gave an Excellence in Economic Development award for the Metro Business Attraction Project collaborated by the City of Mesa and GPEC for the "First Solar in AZ" project. The award was presented at the Governor's Annual Statewide Conference in Oro Valley, AZ on October 28, 2011.

Mr. Peter Sterling commented that the Business Retention Program is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. A letter was sent out to 40 businesses requesting a Business Retention meeting be scheduled through the Mesa Chamber of Commerce office. So far only 6 contact visits have been completed with more visits scheduled to be conducted in the near future. Ms. Lois Yates has been working with the Chamber of Commerce to ensure the program runs smoothly.

Ms. Lois Yates commented each year the program continues to improve relationships with the business owners and provides insight to the needs of the business owners.

Chair Crockett gave an update on the GPEC policy objectives for the next Legislative Session. GPEC is pushing lawmakers for bigger tax breaks. They want to up the ante in recruiting more high-wage jobs and big businesses to the state. GPEC is talking to lawmakers and economic developers to gauge support for a new set of tax changes next year. GPEC has also been talking with companies to garner support for a new Tax Bill. The focus will be on an Investment Tax and Property Tax Abatement for new job creations, which will create new revenue. Misters Brian Campbell, Steve Shope, William Jabjiniak, Peter Sterling, and Roc Arnett serve on various GPEC Boards or committees.

## **6. Adjournment**

Chair Crockett adjourned the Board meeting at 8:15 a.m. with the tour ending at 9:26 a.m.

Submitted By:

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William J. Jabjiniak  
Economic Development Department Director  
(Prepared by Betsy Adams)