

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

Date: September 7, 2010: **Time:** 7:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rich Adams
Christian Alder
Terry Benelli
Jim LeCheminant
Jo Wilson
Steve Wood

EX-OFFICIO

Mayor Scott Smith (excused)
Chris Brady (excused)
Brian Campbell
Jeff Crockett
Charlie Deaton
Steve Shope

STAFF PRESENT

Betsy Adams
William Jabjiniak
Patrick Murphy

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jared Langkilde (excused)
Steve Parker (excused)
Jeff Pitcher (excused)

GUESTS

None

1. Chair's Call To Order

Chair Jeff Crockett called the September 7, 2010 meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Board to order at 7:31 A.M. at the City of Mesa Council Chambers, Lower Level, 57 E. 1st Street, Mesa, AZ 85201.

2. Items from Citizens Present

None

3. Approval of Minutes from August 3, 2010 board meeting.

Chair Crockett called for a motion to approve the minutes (with minor correction) from the meeting held on August 3, 2010.

MOTION: Christian Alder moved that the minutes from August 3, 2010 be approved as written with the minor correction of adding Steve Wood to Members Present.

SECOND: Jim LeCheminant

DECISION: Passed unanimously.

4. Report on Local Redevelopment Agency (LRA)

Mr. Patrick Murphy explained that he and Mr. Jabjiniak attended the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Convention in San Francisco on August 8-12. The ADC's mission is to work and help communities that have bases located within their vicinity to

build better relationships and to network with other community representatives that have gone through a similar process. The convention enabled them to network, ask questions and actually meet several of the contact people they have been closely working with on the base closure. They met and had an opportunity to talk with the contact representative for HUD.

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Jabjiniak met on August 15th with the Selection Committee to review the bids for a consultant. There were 5 (five) bids with a wide array of bid prices. The bids were higher than anticipated and the initial Grant amount requested was approved and a modification to cover the higher cost for a consultant has also been approved. After careful comparison of the bids and items to be accomplished an agreement was reached on the consultant selection. It was a unanimous agreement to award the bid to Ernest Swiger Consulting based on there being no preconceived uses for the property, scope of work and the best value for the cost. A meeting is scheduled for September 13th to meet with the Consultant to finalize the contract and to lay out the project schedule through completion and adoption of the Redevelopment Plan and Homeless Submission Report by the City Council.

Mr. Murphy, Mr. Jabjiniak and Mr. Brian Campbell met with approximately 50 (fifty) AFRL employees on Tuesday, August 24th. The purpose of the meeting was to update the employees on the timeline, process and the next steps. Flyers and business cards were left for the employees unable to attend. The employees will be kept updated periodically.

Mr. Brian Campbell commented that Mr. Murphy is the Gatekeeper of the whole Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process and is responsible to keep the timeline and process strictly on track. He commended Mr. Murphy for his excellent work and guidance provided in keeping everything moving smoothly and on time. The process timing is critical for the closure of the base in regards to the Security Clearance involved.

Mr. Jabjiniak stated that the outreach continues with ASU and Gateway Airport stakeholders. They will have an important role, yet to be defined, in the closure process. The NOI's are due on October 12th. Mr. Campbell has been the main liaison contact with other stakeholders and interested parties.

Chair Crockett commented that in reviewing the bids for a consultant there were a wide array of prices and scope of work. Extra attention was given to find the best bid, best technical work experience and the best scope of work. The LRA Special Subcommittee is very pleased with the consultant selection.

Mr. Steve Shope inquired as to who would be making the reuse recommendation.

Mr. Murphy responded after the Redevelopment Plan is approved by the LRA/City Council it will be submitted to the Air Force for review and consideration. Since this will be a former Air Force facility the Air Force has the authority and the final decision to select who they would like to take over the property.

Chair Crockett also commended Mr. Murphy for his excellent work.

5. Directors Report

Mr. William Jabjiniak gave a brief update on the Cubs. Negotiations and meetings are ongoing with the Cubs. A Development Agreement has not been executed as a site has not been selected and may not be selected before the November 2nd Election. There are a lot of moving parts and the Board will be kept informed.

Chair Crockett inquired as to what the Board should or could do to help advocate for the Cubs Proposition #420 on the November Election Ballot.

Mr. Jabjiniak responded that the Board could be advocates to the public and promote the retaining the Cubs in Mesa. He suggested networking, giving of your time and money if you would like. City employees are not allowed to promote or become politically involved with campaigns. High Grounds are running the campaign.

Mr. Charlie Deaton commented that the public has in their minds that the ball fields are only used 1 (one) month out of the year. The public needs to be educated that the facilities are used year round. The public should be supportive for the Cubs to stay in Mesa which ultimately enhances the quality of life and the economy.

Vice-Chair Rich Adams inquired if any record or data was available as to how many staff members are at the training facility year round. He commented that it would be interesting to have that head count. Also he suggested talking points be given from High Grounds.

Mr. Jabjiniak responded that the information was not available for the number of staff at the facility year round, but would be interesting to find out the number of staff.

Mr. Jabjiniak referred to the previously mentioned Association of Defense Communities Convention (ADC) held in San Francisco. In addition to the convention he and Mr. Murphy were able to connect with the President of the Art University in San Francisco. They were able to tour their facilities and continue the dialogue as part of the H.E.A.T. initiative of attracting higher education in Mesa's economic development efforts. Also they met with the National Director of Ellery Beckett. Ellery Beckett is a national sports architectural firm. The trip to San Francisco was very productive in addition to the Defense Communities Convention.

He also announced the 23rd destination of Fort Collins, CO for Allegiant Airlines beginning October 8th. Additional destinations are to be announced soon. The Gateway Airport Terminal will be having its Grand Opening on November 9th.

Mr. Murphy helped coordinate, plan and reconnect the area Fire Chiefs, Convention Center, Marriott Hotel and Downtown Mesa Association for the Arizona State Fire School being held on September 8-12 at the Convention Center. Over 1,000 students attend with over 30 workshops being offered. The coordination also included ensuring that there were special activities for family members in attendance.

Ms. Jo Wilson suggested that MCC be included with the Arizona State Fire School process next year. MCC's Fire School is located on Centennial Way and they would like to be involved in the future.

Mr. Jabjiniak reminded the Board of the GPEC Annual Dinner to be held on Thursday, October 7, 2010. Please let Mr. Jabjiniak or the Economic Development Office know of your interest in attending.

He also commented that GPEC is under scrutiny from a fiscal standpoint. In the 3 (three) years that he has been in Mesa the total number of locates have not been many. The pressure is on and Mr. Barry Broom is reaching out to all of the decision makers.

6. GPEC Update

Mr. Brian Campbell commented that the GPEC staff is being restructured after losing 2 (two) top staff members. There has been displeasure expressed to GPEC with the performance or lack of performance that has been provided to the City of Mesa over the years in proportion to the annual fee. Mr. Broom is aware of the displeasure and is working to correct the issue.

He reminded the Board of the GPEC Annual Dinner on Thursday, October 7, 2010 to be held at the Arizona Biltmore. Also Mesa will have a seat on the Executive Committee, but exactly which seat is still to be determined.

Mr. Jabjiniak thanked Mr. Campbell on behalf of the City of Mesa for serving as Chair of the GPEC Next Committee. A lot of hours and work have gone into Mr. Campbell's serving on the committee and he has done an outstanding job.

7. Other Business

Mr. Jabjiniak encouraged the members of the Board to see him after the Board meeting and pick-up a H.E.A.T. t-shirt. The t-shirts were ordered through the Public Information Office in promotion of the Mayor's H.E.A.T. initiative.

He also took the opportunity to thank several members of the Board for serving on the Hiring Panel for the 2 (two) positions open in the Economic Development office. A decision should be reached shortly in the hiring process.

Chair Crockett acknowledged and thanked Betsy Adams, Administrative Support Assistant II for all the work done behind the scenes to keep EDAB and the Economic Development office moving along smoothly. He also commended Mr. Jabjiniak for his tremendous work and efforts handled each week.

He also encouraged the Board to support the November 2 Election. The benefits the State and Mesa receive from the Cubs remaining in Arizona need to be stressed along with the initiatives for economic development that will move the State of Arizona forward. Over the next few months there will be opportunities to talk to people regarding the November ballot items. With High Ground running the Cubs campaign perhaps they

would be willing to provide talking points to the organization. Retaining the Cubs is important to Mesa.

Mrs. Terry Benelli offered to provide the Board a link to the website containing information and talking points regarding the Cubs campaign.

Mr. Christian Alder suggested a topic for future discussion regarding a Signature Event for Mesa.

Chair Crockett reminded the EDAB members of the next scheduled meeting on October 5, 2010 will be a tour of Falcon Field Airport.

8. Adjournment

Chair Crockett adjourned the meeting at 8:38 a.m.

Submitted By:

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