

**MEETING MINUTES
(Corrected)**

**Office of Economic Development
Economic Development Advisory Board
57 E. 1st Street
Lower Level Council Chambers
Mesa, AZ 85201**

Date: May 3, 2016 Time: 7:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

James Christensen
Natascha Ovando-Karadshah
Dominic Perry
Jeff Pitcher
Jo Wilson, Vice Chair

EX-OFFICIO

Mayor John Giles
Chris Brady (excused)
Rich Adams
Brian Campbell
Jeffrey Crockett
Sally Harrison (excused)

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Jabjiniak
Sara Sorensen
Pat Block
Michele Freed

MEMBERS ABSENT

Terry Benelli
Steven Shope
Laura Snow, Chairman
Robert Stanger (excused)

GUESTS PRESENT

None

1. Chair's Call To Order

Vice Chair Jo Wilson called the Economic Development Advisory Board meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

2. Items from Citizens Present

None.

3. Approval of Minutes from the February 2, 2016 Board Meeting

Vice Chair Jo Wilson, seeing that a full quorum was not present, suggested moving the approval of minutes until a later time in the meeting when a quorum would be present.

4. RDA Task Force

Vice Chair Jo Wilson invited Sara Sorensen to give an update on the RDA Task Force. Sara Sorensen indicated that the Redevelopment Area project now has the use of a consultant, approved by the City Council for the Southwest Expansion area (more commonly known as the Fiesta District). The consultant began last week and will be on-site May 17 when the field work portion will begin. The team will be going out and surveying the different properties that are in the targeted area. They hope to be able to use ASU interns for some of the field work. After contacting ASU, Ms. Sorensen shared that they have received a few promising applications. She mentioned this would help accelerate the process. At that time, they will issue their request for proposals for the West Expansion of Downtown, as well as the East Expansion of Downtown at the same time. Eventually all three RDA areas will be

going through the aforementioned process concurrently. She shared that they hope to be in front of Council with their findings in July before the Council begins summer break. If they declare the area as blighted, then they will continue with the writing of their redevelopment plan. Ms. Sorensen offered to answer any questions the Advisory Board had for her.

Seeing no questions, Vice Chair Wilson thanked Sara for her presentation.

Approval of Minutes from the April 5, 2016 Board Meeting

Noting that a quorum was now present, Vice Chair Wilson called for a motion to approve the minutes.

MOTION: James Christensen made a motion to approve the minutes

SECOND: Natascha Ovando-Karadsheh seconded the motion to approve the minutes

DECISION: The motion passed unanimously

5. Mesa Education Initiative – Mayor Giles

Vice Chair Jo Wilson invited Mayor John Giles to give an update on the Mesa Education Initiative. Mayor Giles shared that he believed this initiative was the next big thing for Downtown Mesa and for the city as a whole. He reminded the board that Sparky had come out to the State of the City. They played the ASU fight song in an attempt to garner some enthusiasm towards the idea of bringing an ASU campus to Downtown Mesa. He shared that he believed this idea makes sense for a lot of reasons. He shared his love of Downtown Mesa, stating that it is an area with enormous potential, but it needs some redevelopment. With the light rail in Downtown Mesa, as well as the Mesa Arts Center, they need to continue to keep the progress moving. He indicated it is important to keep bringing in destinations and reasons for people to visit Downtown Mesa. A few years ago, they rallied around the Higher Education Initiative which resulted in Benedictine University, Wilkes and others coming to Mesa. He thinks this cause really resonates with Mesa and the core values of the community. To take the Higher Education Initiative and the redevelopment of Downtown Mesa to another level, Mayor Giles thinks ASU would be a perfect fit. He shared how successful ASU has become in recent years, comparing it to many years ago when he attended and it was just a middle of the pack state university. He acknowledged that it has now become a world class institution under the leadership of Dr. Crow and his team. Due to the success of ASU, it would be a great partner for the City of Mesa to work with. He advised the board that when ASU comes to a community, they change it forever due to the length of time they will be there. There are also many people and institutions that orbit around ASU and these groups will be attracted to Mesa with the addition of a Downtown Mesa campus.

Mayor Giles gave a brief update on the Polytechnic Campus and the ASU Research Park adjacent to Poly. He said that it is a fair question to ask, "Why are we dedicating so much time and attention to Downtown?" He attempted to answer the question and stated that a community is judged by their downtown. When anyone on the Advisory Board is out promoting Mesa, he notes that most people visualize Mesa and think of something on Main Street. He indicated that he sees the downtown area as the living room of the entire community and he believes people want to identify with this area. For the City to have success at Gateway or at Falcon, they need to have a strong, vibrant downtown. Because of the ongoing success of ASU, it needs more development opportunities and Mesa is a perfect match, with a light rail that runs from downtown Mesa to the ASU campus and vice-versa. He discussed the transformation of Downtown Phoenix and held it up as a great model to aspire to. With the Phoenix voters approving a significant bond package to invest in bringing ASU to Downtown Phoenix, they have now seen the fruit of this decision. He pointed out that there has been much adjacent commercial development in and around ASU in Downtown Phoenix, resulting in an influx of

vibrant, smart students who are circulating in and around the downtown area. Mayor Giles pointed out that this is the model they aspire to copy. Additionally, he discussed Benedictine and Wilkes and the fact that they have already invested in Mesa and have experienced success. He reminded the Board that this was not an ASU-exclusive initiative, but rather a higher-education initiative, and the funding source they identify for this project will also be the funding source that will allow Benedictine and Wilkes to continue to grow. He mentioned one of the challenges they have with the other Downtown Mesa education institutions is the fact that the downtown area is not quite attractive enough yet to a millennial population. Mayor Giles suggested the need to create some amenities in Downtown Mesa that could be shared by the people who live there and the people who visit, but would also create a space that college students would be attracted to. At this point in his presentation, he invited the Advisory Board to engage with him by asking questions. He then discussed some of the goals for the area. These included workforce development, creating a vibrant downtown area and a highly-skilled workforce.

Within this Higher Education Initiative, Mayor Giles pointed out it is the City's wish to support the growth and success of the current colleges and universities, partner with ASU to develop and support a campus in Downtown Mesa, and to create an innovative and active civic center. He shared some renderings with the Board, indicating that these particular drawings had been shown to City Council recently, but shortly they will receive more detailed renderings which will provide a great deal more detail than what is currently being shown. He further pointed out that one of the key components will be to take a look at properties the City already owns, as it is much easier to develop a property if you own the property. He discussed the fact that ASU has been very flexible throughout the entire process, and indicated that one of the things ASU has stated that they are interested in, was proximity to the light rail. He then pointed out the area being considered, which includes the building today's meeting is taking place in. He indicated that the site is near the light rail, near the Downtown Mesa City Plaza and the City of Mesa exercises control over it. He indicated that the proposal is to focus the campus on this particular piece of property. He provided some geographic information regarding the site. Pepper Street runs through the middle, north of the site is 1st Street, and to the south of the site is Main Street. The proposal is to focus the campus on this piece of property, as well as immediately to the south. He reminded the board that the City of Mesa owns the buildings that sit right in front of the Mesa Arts Center. Initially, ASU has been discussing occupying a campus of about 200,000 square feet. However, they are quite flexible and would consider a larger campus. This demand would require the City to develop three buildings to house ASU in and would also result in redeveloping the City Plaza area at the same time. He reminded the board about a competition that had taken place approximately two years ago, in which world class designers sought to redevelop the Mesa City Plaza campus. This plan involved abandoning Pepper Street, which runs through the middle of the block, and converting the area to a green, programmable plaza area. He shared that at the time, everyone thought this was a great idea, but no one had any idea how to fund the project which would have run about 50 million dollars. He stated that the original proposed design which had a change in elevation in between the two parts of the campus. He mentioned that this would create a large, outdoor area that could be used in winter for an ice rink, or in summer for splash pads. He indicated Building A, which is the 51-55 West Main Street building. Building B would be a large building built in front of the City Council Chambers. He discussed the existing Technology Building which was on the map in the upper right hand corner. He said the Technology Building could be repurposed. It is currently a data center, but the City is transitioning a lot of the functions of that building to other places.

Comment: Jo Wilson suggested clarifying for the Board the different buildings Mayor Giles was talking about and indicating them on the depiction.

Mayor Giles then specifically pointed out each building on the rendering. He said the plan would involve getting rid of Pepper Place and creating a green area throughout the entire block. The plan would also involve redeveloping the building that currently sits in front of the Mesa Arts Center and

turning it into a 5-story building for classrooms, with retail on the main floor. It would involve building a new building in front of what is now the Technology building, and another new building adjacent to the Council Chambers. These buildings are labeled A, B and C on the presentation slide and would be built in that order. He indicated that the Technology building is currently being underutilized. If they transitioned a few more of the data center operations out of that building, that building would then be vacant. He pointed out that this building was previously the old Mesa City Library, so for historic reasons they would want to be sensitive to that building, but it could definitely be repurposed for use in the ASU campus. He mentioned that there would be room on the campus for two additional buildings, which would be for commercial development. He indicated that these would likely be bank or corporate centers. The City would develop these buildings for revenue generation and to service the people that are living and working on the campus. He then showed renderings of different views looking into the proposed site. He pointed out that the building that sits on the Mesa Arts Center campus would likely have arts-centered uses taking place in that building. Some of the possible programs ASU has discussed bringing are dance, film, and performing arts programs. These programs could all utilize the Mesa Arts Center. This would create a need for a great deal of programming inside the Mesa Arts Center. He discussed one of the proposed architectural features of Building B was the possibility of having a blank space on one of the walls, which could be used for showing large screen video productions. Mayor Giles said that at the Council Study Session, they would receive the next generation of the drawings, and ASU would also share some of the probable programs that they would like to bring to Downtown Mesa. The possibility of this campus has created a lot of excitement in the ASU community to come and be a part of this, resulting in a long list of possible programs that are candidates to come into Downtown Mesa. ASU has made an effort not to attempt to compete directly with programs that Benedictine and Wilkes offer, and they have stated that they are willing to remove any program from consideration that would directly compete with these other schools.

Question: Dominic Perry wanted more information on the possibility of student housing, as well as how they would address parking.

Answer: Mayor Giles said that student housing and parking are two very important topics that need to be addressed. ASU indicated that there will be great demand for student housing, but they are not interested in building it themselves. ASU pointed out that a lot of private developers would come to the City and propose student housing along the light rail and adjacent to the new campus. Mayor Giles anticipates developers will come to the City with interest in building student housing in and around this area. He then addressed the need for parking. He said there would be curbside parking around the perimeter of the facility. He said they have some existing parking garages and they are exploring if it is cost effective to add additional floors to these parking garages. City employees will have to park a little farther away due to increased demand. He indicated that they have a team of engineers and designers who are working to design this aspect of the project.

Comment: William Jabjiniak said they will have more details regarding parking to share as the project progresses.

Question: Dominic Perry asked what the number of students would likely be at the downtown campus.

Answer: Mayor Giles stated that he thinks it will start at roughly 2,500 students and continue to grow each year. He expects that this growth will take place in several stages. He further discussed the way in which ASU would select the programs that would be housed at this campus, mentioning one of the possibilities is in the area of gaming. Industries of all types are interested in these students. ASU is on the cutting edge of this gaming technology and they need a place to grow that particular program. Another idea that has surfaced is the possibility of adding an ASU Preparatory Academy. Currently, there is one of these schools at ASU Poly and one in Downtown Phoenix, but they both currently have a long waiting list. These schools are charter schools, which are heavily influenced and benefitted by

ASU, but are operated by the local school district. They are also interested in developing an early childhood education program and this is another one of the many possibilities for this campus.

Mayor Giles then discussed the redevelopment of Downtown Mesa. He thinks that a lot of young families are drawn to the urban lifestyle and suggested if they had a high performing elementary school in the mix, he thought this would attract this clientele to Mesa.

Comment: Jeff Pitcher said that in addition to the concerns about student housing and parking, he was concerned with retail and where this new influx of people to the area would shop. He mentioned the buildings on either end of the campus that could be used for retail, but definitely thinks this aspect needs to be looked at. He suggested a mixed-use type of environment.

Answer: Mayor Giles agreed and said they needed the Advisory Board to review the proposal for a 5-story housing project, which would include retail on the ground floor and have its own parking structure. He pointed out that this is not something they had done in Downtown Mesa yet, but it would set the stage for what the future holds going forward.

Question: Natascha Ovando-Karadsheh asked if the City had considered revisiting the decision to operate only on Monday through Thursday. She thinks this inhibits restaurants and retail establishments because they lose all of the City employees on Fridays. She suggested that if they were going to pursue a younger demographic, this would be something to reconsider. She thought the decision was made to cut costs during the recession, but thinks it should now be revisited, as the economy is much stronger.

Answer: Mayor Giles said this issue has been raised with the City Manager. However, the 4/10 work schedule is a very attractive option and it is great for City goodwill and morale.

Comment: Natascha Ovando-Karadsheh stated that this issue isn't just a problem due to the many City employees, but even the organizations that do work for the City also keep the same schedule as the City. She pointed out that the entrepreneurial spirit doesn't really run well on a schedule that involves being off for three days in a row.

Answer: Mayor Giles answered that currently the City employs thousands of employees which keeps the restaurants busy at lunchtime. As the economy broadens out beyond the City, he thinks this problem will be lessened.

Comment: Natascha Ovando-Karadsheh said she thought that they should consider what the City's identity is when they decide what programs ASU should be offering. She asked if they considered themselves a tech-based city, and if so, wondered if they should go after programs that align with that vision. Also, she asked if they were an Arts city. Ms. Ovando-Karadsheh suggested it was very important to identify who the City of Mesa wanted to be? She thinks those two things need to match, so that the programs they bring into the ASU campus will support the industries they are bringing into the area.

Answer: Mayor Giles stated that he agreed completely. This is why he has nudged ASU in the area of education. He has suggested that the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College locate in Mesa. He thinks this would resonate with Mesa voters. He thought the Arts also spoke to who they are as a community, as well as any STEM programs.

Comment/Question: Jeffrey Crockett applauded Mayor Giles leadership on the education initiative. He said he has spent his entire working career in Downtown Phoenix and he has seen what having ASU has done for the downtown area. It has been a great catalyst for change in Phoenix and will definitely be good for Mesa. He asked if this would be a bond issue and also asked about the timing for this project.

Answer: Mayor Giles said he doesn't have any definitive answers, but he can speculate. He discussed one possible way to fund the project would be through a bond which would go to the voters for approval. This would be a general obligation bond and would be paid for through a secondary property tax. He said this is the normal way to fund large capital projects. He then discussed the need for public safety due to growth in the southeast part of Mesa around Gateway and Eastmark. He pointed out that there are lots of people moving to the area, but not a lot of infrastructure built yet. He reminded the board that services need to be provided for the influx of people. Until this influx of people have lived there for a period of time, they will not have enough of the City of Mesa sales tax to pay for the public safety infrastructure of fire stations and police stations. He pointed out that this means they need to find a way to pay for the existing public safety needs. There has been a proposal to increase the City Sales Tax to pay for these necessary needs. Within this, there might be some room built into that sales tax for the Higher Education Initiative. Council will have to decide the best option to pursue.

Comment: Brian Campbell thanked Mayor Giles for his leadership in this area. He suggested that the vision needed to be expanded. Instead of being a Downtown-focused initiative, or an ASU-focused initiative, he suggested they should think in terms of what Paul Luna of Helios, refers to as a regionally wide education ecosystem and a system that will support that. He stated that the ecosystem in downtown will have ASU, Wilkes and Benedictine, who will play a key role in support of schools that need to be brought in. He believes they need this thinking, not just for the downtown area, but for the entire city. He believes a broader, regional play needs to be developed to stitch all these components together.

Question: Mayor Giles asked the Advisory Board for their input on the idea of increasing the sales tax. He wondered if the board thought an increase in the sales tax would have a chilling effect on economic development. He reminded the board that currently Mesa's sales tax is 1.75. This puts Mesa in the lower half of neighboring cities. Phoenix and Glendale have much higher sales tax, but Gilbert and Chandler are 1.50%. If the tax was raised 1/4 of a percentage point and made an even 2.0, they would still be low compared to the west valley and Phoenix, but it would put Mesa significantly higher than Chandler and Gilbert, the cities they are most often compared to. However, Mayor Giles pointed out that Mesa does not tax food. Phoenix and Mesa are the only two cities in the region that don't tax food. He also pointed out that Mesa doesn't have a primary property tax. In a comparison with other cities, Mesa still comes in low on overall taxation.

Comment: Brian Campbell stated that the last time they had gone to the public for money was during the Riverview campaign. At that time, the theme and approach was to ask the voters if they wanted this in their community, even though it would cost money. He believes this is the best approach, reminding the board that no one likes to pay taxes, but he believes that the community can be approached with the possibility of having this amenity and then they can decide if they value it enough to pay for it. He thinks the citizens of Mesa tend to rally for this type of message. He reminded the board that the community rallied to support Riverview and he believes a similar approach is warranted.

Comment: Natascha Ovando-Karadsheh indicated her agreement with Brian Campbell's comments. She believes this proposal will come down to how it is marketed. She suggested that it needed to be discussed in terms of the future of Mesa and include the public safety and ASU components, and possibly some other components as well. She believes there needs to be one vision that can be presented to the citizens, so that they understand where the City is heading and give them a chance to support this vision. She reminded the board that the City is getting more and more diverse and this vision needs to be expressed to a very diverse group of citizenry.

Comment: Mayor Giles stated that when they settle with ASU on the list of programs coming into Downtown Mesa, this will aid greatly in communicating the message. Mayor Giles expressed his

excitement about this idea, but realizes there is the potential that the community may not catch the same vision. His goal will be to get the message out in a way that people can recognize the value of it.

Comment/Question: Rich Adams agreed that he believes the message is critical and that they need to communicate to the community what they will gain from the proposal. If the community sees it as a benefit, they are more likely to embrace the proposal and what it will take to implement it. He also discussed the possibility of some type of restaurant district in Downtown Mesa, similar to the downtown area in Gilbert. He wondered if there was any strategy to make that happen.

Answer: Mayor Giles mentioned a grass roots effort that is trying to track downtown restaurants. Recently, this group hosted an event at the Mesa Arts Center and this group went out and recruited about 15 restauranteurs to come to their event. The event included a walking tour of downtown Mesa, in which available properties were pointed out. He mentioned that some of the larger restaurant names were in attendance. The event was very successful and he believes that as a city, they continue to make progress in this area. He acknowledged that the City of Mesa is hampered somewhat by the fact that the City doesn't own these spaces, but he hopes that private owners can continue to negotiate and bring about products that restauranteurs are interested in. As a City, they will look at the 51-55 West Main building having a ground floor which will consist of a restaurant and retail component. He envisions this building having one or two nice restaurants, as well as a commercial kitchen that can service the catering needs for the Mesa Arts Center. He also envisions it having a patio space that would overlook the MAC courtyard, used for receptions and entertaining. In terms of the broader effect, Mayor Giles shared that since they made the ASU announcement, the phone has been ringing and they have received a great deal of interest. He pointed out a new and very successful restaurant that had come to Downtown Mesa called Worth Takeaway. He believes creating a successful downtown restaurant district will take place incrementally with other restaurants coming in over time.

Comment: Rich Adams pointed out that downtown Gilbert also started slowly and has now become very successful.

Comment: Mayor Giles pointed out that when more restaurants come to the area, they will benefit from so many of the amenities in Downtown Mesa, such as the light rail and the Mesa Arts Center. He believes that when Mesa catches up with Gilbert in terms of developing this type of restaurant district, other communities will envy the destination.

Comment: William Jabjiniak asked Mayor Giles to discuss the timeline.

Mayor Giles said that the City Council has approved a Memorandum of Understanding and this has been executed with the Board of Regents. Pursuant to that agreement, they are engaging in ongoing discussions with ASU. The agreement that authorizes the discussion will culminate in an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) no later than June 10, 2016. Before June 10, the City Council will have the opportunity to develop an agreement with ASU that includes additional details of the proposal. It will include how big the campus will be, how it will be paid for, and what programs it will include. Each week or two at Council meetings, they will include updates for the project. Before the end of the month, they will have a detailed idea of what needs to go into this Intergovernmental Agreement. In order to gain voter approval for the financing component, they will need to act quickly if they wish to include it in the November election. In order for this proposal to be on the November ballot, the election will need to be declared by the first part of June. He pointed out this means they have a very short timeline. Mayor Giles shared that if they move forward with placing this on the November ballot, a campaign will begin to garner support for the proposal. He will be asking for the Economic Development Advisory Board to endorse the proposal.

Comment: William Jabjiniak stated that the board would be hearing more about this as the project further develops. He encouraged the board to stay involved in the process and ask questions.

Question: Dominic Perry asked if the board could have updated drawings after the meeting on Thursday.

Answer: Mayor Giles answered affirmatively. He also reminded the board that they could always log on to the City of Mesa website, where all of the diagrams would be posted online. He also pointed out that all of the discussions will be public record.

Vice Chair Jo Wilson thanked Mayor Giles for his presentation. She expressed her excitement about the possibilities for the downtown area.

6. Director's Report

William Jabjiniak advised the board that he had participated in a recent GPEC activity, along with the City of Phoenix and Surprise. They made a delegation trip to Hannover, Germany for the Hannover Messe trade fair. This is the world's leading trade fair for Industrial Technology. At this event, they talked to interested parties about their interest in the region. The Greater Phoenix area does very well as a region. Director Jabjiniak shared that they had discussions with many companies, both large and small, about how they could get started in the United States. He mentioned that Council members Thompson and Richins also participated in this trip. The Economic Development Staff has also recently been in Chicago and participated in the Southeast Valley Community Demo Day.

William Jabjiniak shared that enVision Gateway had taken place in the last month. This event was an effort to rally the development community together and discuss the opportunities available in the Gateway Airport area. He informed the board that Jane Morris had announced her retirement. He discussed a recent meeting between Council Member Thompson and the property owners along Elliot Road. At his suggestion, they brought in all the property owners in the tech corridor and discussed the investment that has been made in the area, as well as the additional investments coming to the area in the way of infrastructure. They also discussed what the City is doing in terms of marketing outreach. He informed the board that there are three active projects today in the Elliot Road Tech Corridor. Because of the amount of resources the City has invested in this area, the vision is now coming to fruition.

Director Jabjiniak discussed several business recently opened at Riverview. He said a new "Class A" office building is being built across from the Hyatt. It will be 150,000 square feet.

Comment/Question: Brian Campbell shared that Jane Morris had been an invaluable asset. He stated that the Gateway Board was actively pursuing her replacement, but asked if there was anything the Advisory Board could do to provide support. He also mentioned that the position of President at Mesa Community College had just been vacated by Dr. Pan and his shoes would also be hard to fill. He believes that both of these positions are critical to the ongoing success path of Mesa. He asked that the board be kept informed if there is anything they can do to help recruit and fill these positions.

Comment: Mayor Giles indicated that these two leaders were critical leaders in the community and efforts would be underway soon to provide their replacements.

Director Jabjiniak announced that Santander was having their ribbon cutting later today. He reminded the board that they are bringing 970 jobs over a three year period. Director Jabjiniak asked for feedback on the new design of the Economic Development newsletter, pointing out that they had recently changed the format and would like input from the board regarding those changes.

Question: Rich Adams asked who the target audience was for the newsletter.

Answer: William Jabjiniak shared that the newsletter goes out to 3,500 to 4,000 people. It goes out to the brokerage community, as well as executives, decision makers of companies, and site selectors.

Director Jabjiniak commented that he hoped the board had enjoyed the tour of AZLabs that took place last month. He briefly mentioned Business to Baseball and shared that they had set attendance records in the Cubs stadium this year. He shared that they have been doing broker and developer road shows which have been well received. He mentioned that he believes it is important for either he or Jaye O'Donnell to be at these events. He shared with the board that Jo Wilson had served the board for approximately 8 years and she will be terming out. They will need to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair at the next meeting. He asked anyone interested in these positions to advise him of their interest and reminded the board members that he likes to keep the person filling the Chair position to remain in their role for at least two years. He also shared that Steve Shope had offered his resignation from the Economic Development Advisory Board. They will be looking for a few replacements as they will need to fill Mr. Shope's vacancy as well as Bob Stanger's seat as he is taking a medical retirement.

Question: Rich Adams asked if anything exciting was happening with Falcon District.

Answer: William Jabjiniak said a meeting had been held recently for the Falcon Tech Center, which is the 63 acres to the west side of the airport. He also informed the board that the property was going through an environmental assessment.

Comment: Brian Campbell expressed his displeasure that the FAA had required an environmental assessment.

William Jabjiniak said they are going through a public zoning process, not in an effort to change the zoning, but to change the stipulations to allow more of the type of zoning that is in demand in today's environment. They are trying to be proactive with their City-owned resources. He indicated they also have some private developers that are engaging in the area with a couple of spec builds that have been proposed. One is on Higley, south of McKellips and another one is on Greenfield, north of McDowell. He said he also has other developers that are looking at the area.

Question: Rich Adams asked who the Staff point person was for the Falcon District.

Answer: William Jabjiniak answered that Andrew Clegg was involved in a lot of the interactions and other staff is added as necessary. He indicated that the Economic Development Staff also meet regularly with the airport.

Question: Rich Adams asked if the Tech Center zoning was something the EDAB should weigh in on.

Answer: William Jabjiniak briefly discussed the timeline and stated that he would keep the EDAB updated on developments on the zoning.

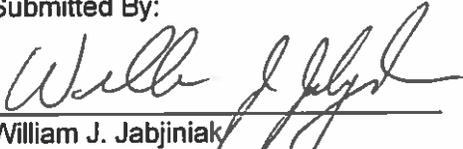
Comment: Natascha Ovando-Karadsheh shared that there is a vintage Cobra helicopter now located at Falcon. Rides are being offered in the helicopter and it is one of the only places in the country offering these rides.

Comment: Brian Campbell suggested providing ongoing support to Boeing as they transition to new technologies.

Response: William Jabjiniak stated that he hopes to add a Boeing representative to the Economic Development Advisory Board after the beginning of the fiscal year.

With no further business before the board, Vice Chair Jo Wilson announced the next meeting would take place on June 7. She thanked Mayor Giles for being in attendance at today's meeting. She adjourned the meeting at 8:56 a.m.

Submitted By:



William J. Jabjiniak
Economic Development Department Director
(Prepared by Debbie Frazey)