

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

Date: April 5, 2011: **Time:** 7:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Terry Benelli
Jared Langkilde
Jim LeCheminant
Dan Olson
Jeff Pitcher
Jo Wilson
Steve Wood

EX-OFFICIO

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

STAFF PRESENT

Betsy Adams
William Jabjiniak
Patrick Murphy

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rich Adams (excused)
Steve Parker (excused)

GUESTS

None

1. Chair's Call To Order

Chair Jeff Crockett called the April 5, 2011 meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Board to order at 7:33 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 March 1, 2011 board meeting.

Chair Crockett called for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 1, 2011.

MOTION: Jim LeCheminant moved that the minutes from March 1, 2011 be approved as written.

SECOND: Jo Wilson

DECISION: Passed unanimously

4. Introduction of New Board Member

Chair Crockett introduced and welcomed new board member, Mr. Dan Olson.

5. Report on recent activities of the Mesa Redevelopment Authority

Mr. Patrick Murphy stated conversations continue with the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) for an additional potential grant application to help fund a portion of the cost of the Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) application.

The Environmental Documentation is in progress with several site tours being conducted. The purposes of the tours are to determine the suitability to lease the property site.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be going out shortly for Property Management services and Business Attraction Assistance for the AFRL.

Negotiations for the Interim Lease/Conveyance process are proceeding. One of our goals with the Interim Lease is to have a smooth transition as the AF vacates the premises. The most critical element of the lease is to keep the security clearance in place.

Mr. Murphy would like the EDAB Local Redevelopment Agency (LRA) Subcommittee to provide input/guidance in the finalizing of the lease/conveyance. He encouraged the Board to be active in the process of selecting a consultant, and completing the application for the EDC.

Chair Crockett inquired of what the next steps were in the process.

Mr. Murphy replied the City Council must approve/adopt a Resolution in order for the LRA to become an Implementing LRA. The Resolution will be going to the City Council for adoption sometime in May. We are applying for more grant money to help complete the application for the EDC and Implementing LRA.

6. Discussion and consideration of items for future EDAB agenda

Suggestions for various topics were discussed with the following topics recommended for future agenda item updates: LRA; Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Business Assistance; Healthcare and Higher Education Studies; Cubs; Fiesta District; Field trips; iMesa; Heatsync; Mesa Chamber of Commerce; Regional Branding; East Valley Aviation and Aerospace Alliance (EVAAA); Accelerator; and Business Registry updates.

It was also suggested that subcommittees from EDAB be formed to provide guidance with assistance toward advancing the Business Registry and Accelerator.

7. Report on the recent activities of the Higher Education Study Committee

Mr. Steve Wood reported on the progress of the Higher Education Study. He stated emails and phone calls from the Higher Education Study Subcommittee have been the choice of communication for providing assistance to Ms. Jaye O'Donnell. The Request for Interest (RFI) packets were mailed out to 1,077 colleges with a closing date of May 6, 2011. The scoring matrix of the RFI's will then begin. He felt that the subcommittee has been very productive and that the process was moving along.

8. Directors Report

Mr. Jabjiniak provided an update regarding the Cubs Project. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a Design Professional has closed and a Design-team should be chosen by the end of April 2011. However, a Development Agreement will not be executed before engaging an architect.

A RFQ has been issued for a general contractor (GC) with a goal to select a GC by the end of May. The Cubs facility Use Agreement is close to being completed. However; Mr. Jabjiniak pointed out that nothing has been permanently decided yet.

The B2B (Business to Baseball) events were well received and attended. New and renewed relationships were forged. The overall attendance for the Cactus League for 2011 was 1.59M people.

First Solar announced it will build its new U.S. manufacturing center in Mesa, AZ creating 600 jobs. Permits are expected to be issued for construction beginning the middle of May with the completion by the second quarter of 2012. Module shipments are scheduled to begin in the third quarter of 2012.

Mr. Jabjiniak encouraged the Board to attend the April 19th Mesa Chamber of Commerce 2011 Business Leadership Awards. The awards will be held at the Phoenix/East Mesa Hilton, 1011 West Holmes Avenue at 5:30 p.m.

The FAA awarded Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport \$9.75M to construct Phase II of the passenger terminal. There were 312 flight and 100,000 passengers for the month of March setting a new record.

The budget numbers through March were release and indicated an improvement with a budget short fall less than projected. The budget for Economic Development is anticipated to remain approximately the same for 2011/2012. Mr. Jabjiniak thanked EDAB members for their support.

9. GPEC Update

Mr. Brian Campbell commented that Legislative efforts are on-going. GPEC efforts in the Invest in Arizona Renewable Energy Program passed in the legislation and included extending the program to the military. The Governor has agreed to sign SB 1041.

Mr. Campbell commented that GPEC is in Washington, D.C., as part of a larger delegation, April 4-6, 2011. Mayor Smith is part of the delegation. This is a working trip with meetings involving healthcare, renewable energy, banking, financial, media and aerospace defense. GPEC is also going to market the AFRL unique asset as part of their trip along with thanking the Generals involved in moving the AFRL Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) process along.

Mr. Campbell commended Mr. Jabjiniak and the entire Economic Development staff for all their hard work and efforts.

10. Other Business

Mrs. Terry Benelli welcomed and introduced Mr. Tony Sieber from First Solar. Mr. Sieber will be heading the Mesa manufacturing center and is interested in becoming involved in the community.

Mrs. Benelli invited and encouraged the Board members and those in attendance to participate on April 13 from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Mesa Arts Center in a panel discussion titled “The RIPPLE EFFECT OF MICROENTERPRISING: How Microenterprise Creates Economic Opportunities and Economic Growth.” The seminar is sponsored by Northern Trust, ACCION New Mexico – Arizona – Colorado, Opportunity International and NEDCO.

Chair Crockett reminded the EDAB members of the next scheduled meeting on May 3, 2011 to be held at the City of Mesa Council Chambers, Lower level, 57 E. 1st Street, Mesa, AZ 85201.

11. Adjournment

Chair Crockett adjourned the meeting at 8:48 a.m.

Submitted By:

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