

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

Date: November 3, 2009: **Time:** 7:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christian Alder
Terry Benelli
Jared Langkilde
Jim LeCheminant
Jeff Pitcher
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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rich Adams (excused)
Steve Parker (excused)

GUESTS

None

1. Chair's Call To Order

Chair Jim LeCheminant called the November 3, 2009 meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Board to order at 7:32 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 October 6, 2009 board meeting.

Chair LeCheminant called for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 1, 2009.

MOTION: Steve Wood moved that the minutes from October 6, 2009 be approved as written.

SECOND: Christian Alder

DECISION: Passed unanimously.

4. Report on Workforce Subcommittee

Ms. Jo Wilson, Chair of the Workforce Subcommittee, gave a brief report on the meeting that was held on Thursday, October 15, 2009. She explained that Mesa Community College has re-established their role in workforce development and are taking a more proactive approach to programs and responding to business community needs.

She commented that Dr. Steve Shope spoke on how difficult it is to find Ph.D. level workers and that ASU Poly does not have a Ph.D. program. A number of students have left the area simply because ASU Poly does not have a Ph.D. level program already established. Dr. Shope is in the process of drafting a recommendation to the EDAB Board for ASU Poly to establish Ph.D. programs at the campus.

Ms. Wilson explained the Workforce Subcommittee members discussed the need to initiate a process for the development of a training and education resource guide for prospective companies. A training resource guide is constantly changing and needs to be kept current.

In addition there was discussion of adding more members to the Workforce Subcommittee and several suggestions were given as to whom to invite.

Mr. Brian Campbell commended Ms. Wilson for moving forward with the Workforce Subcommittee. He also commented that GPEC was working with the state to help retool the Enterprise Zone Program with a focus on workforce training.

Ms. Terry Benelli suggested that a recommendation/resolution be prepared and sent to the City Council requesting support for Ph.D. programs to be established at ASU Poly.

Mr. Charlie Deaton brought to the Advisory Board's attention, the State has raided the workforce job training fund even though we as residents of the State continue to pay for the maintenance of this fund. Mr. Deaton was asked to provide additional background at a future meeting.

5. Discuss Boardmember Duties and Responsibilities

Mr. Jabjiniak commented that he and Chris Brady had met to discuss potential board projects. He put together a proposed list of initiatives. He suggested the EDAB members discuss the list and choose the initiatives upon which they would like to provide guidance. The list is as follows:

- Transit Oriented Development/ John Wesley
- High Education Initiative (HEAT)
- Healthcare Initiative (HEAT)
- Downtown Development
- New Market Tax Credits
- Loan Fund
- Reviving MEGACORP
- Re-establish IDA/EDA
- Business Accelerator

Mr. Jabjiniak suggested that these were just several initiatives for the EDAB Board members to become involved with and to take a role in helping to further define the initiatives. He also asked for comments or suggestions.

Chair LeCheminant suggested a revision of the Subcommittees and that he would work with Vice-Chair Jeff Crockett and Mr. Jabjiniak to revise the Subcommittees. He encouraged Board members to take a look at the Subcommittees and let the Office of Economic Development know which Subcommittee they were interested in serving on.

Mr. Brian Campbell commented that the Subcommittees were not limited to just EDAB Board members but encouraged community participation as well. There are also some legal issues to overcome such as the Open Meeting Laws for meetings.

6. Directors Report

Mr. Jabjiniak encouraged the Board members to take time to read the 4th Quarter Newsletter. Also distributed was the report on The Importance of the Chicago Cubs to the Arizona Cactus League. He also reminded the Board of The Cubs Reception that evening. The Cubs hopefully will give the City of Mesa direction by the end of the year.

The Business Registry is still moving forward. The General Economic Development Committee meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2009 (rescheduled). The main item on the agenda is to discuss and give direction on the Business Registry. A great deal of time, effort and research has gone into establishing a registry. The new financial system will be a factor when combining all the data from different sources to make an efficient Business Registry.

Mr. Jabjiniak provided a copy of an email that Ms. Corrine Nystrom had sent to Mr. Charlie Deaton as a follow-up to his questions regarding answers to the reasons for the change in flight patterns by the FAA. It appears that the FAA is directing arriving aircraft to line up for the final approach further to the east than in the past. This enables more aircraft to be placed into the final approach pattern. Since more aircraft are lined up into these patterns further to the east, they can no longer fly north of the river and still fit into the pattern. FAA continually reviews and adjusts the flight patterns.

7. GPEC Update

Mr. Campbell shared that GPEC is moving forward helping the State to revise the Enterprise Zone tool for businesses. Also a great deal of interest has been generated in the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway area. Allegiant Airlines is doing great things in expanding flights. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has awarded the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport \$8.9 million as part of the 2009 Military Airport Program (MAP), which uses federal funds to convert former military airports to civilian or joint-use airports. This funding will allow the airport to expand its existing terminal from four (4) to six (6) gates.

8. Other Business

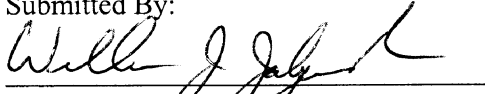
Chair LeCheminant reminded the EDAB members of the next scheduled meeting on December 1, 2009 to be held at the City of Mesa Council Chambers, Lower Level, 57 E. 1st Street, Mesa, Arizona 85201.

Mr. Jared Langkilde requested an update on the impact that the Tribune's closing will have on Mesa. He also suggested an update on the Mesa Chamber of Commerce potential move to another location.

9. Adjournment

Chair LeCheminant adjourned the meeting at 8:49 a.m.

Submitted By:



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