

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, April 17, 2013 - MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Ms. Kilian, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

2. Roll Call - Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB)

Present: Carol Kilian Phil Ehlinger Lawrence McDermott Ruth Trager

Absent: Thomas Blawn Tim Davis Bishop Derek Triplett

Ex-Officio: Rob Ehrhardt, Volusia County Economic Development Manager
Keith Norden, Team Volusia Economic Development Corporation President/CEO

Staff: Emory Counts, Economic/Community Development Director

3. Approval of Minutes – Wednesday, February 20, 2013. *A motion to approve the Minutes of Wednesday, February 20, 2013, was made by Mr. McDermott, seconded by Ms Trager, and approved unanimously.*

4. Reports

A. Volusia County Economic Development (VCED) –Rob Ehrhardt

Mr. Ehrhardt welcomed Phil Ehlinger to the Board since this was his first meeting and had been the Volusia County Economic Development Director for a number of years. He then began his report noting that reaction from the public and the Volusia County Council was mostly positive about a new spaceport project proposed about two weeks ago by Frank Dibello, President/CEO *Space Florida*. There were a number of persons in the audience who were concerned about the project's impact on the environment. However, everyone agreed that the jobs created from the project would be very positive for the County residents. The location of the project is in the Shiloh Citrus community southeast of the City of Oak Hill. If you go south on US-1, then take State Road 3 which is almost a 90 degree turn off to the right and follow it across the railroad tracks for about 2 miles you will run into the site. The project would probably also benefit from some of the aerospace technology and information being created at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU). In addition, although the spaceport itself would create jobs the real bonanza would be the "supply chain" of business products and services that would be needed to support this industry which would stimulate business growth. After the presentation from Mr. Dibello, the County Council decided to have staff bring back a Resolution for its consideration. Mr. McDermott asked if there was a need to demonstrate business community support. Mr. Ehrhardt responded that it would be helpful to have balanced support from business, residents, and others. This is a \$300 billion industry globally and United States has very little share of that activity. It is pretty exciting to think that an effort to get some of that market share could be centered right here in Volusia County.

Ms. Trager wondered if it was too early to start talking about the types of spin-off businesses that might be needed if the spaceport is established. Mr. Ehrhardt indicated that that is a key point and it would be good to identify some of the types of businesses and/or specific businesses by name that might benefit.

The County Council will consider the Qualified Targeted Industry application submitted by DME Automotive which has about 300 employees and is located south of the Airport on Bellevue Avenue. Most people believe it is a City of Daytona Beach business but it is actually on County land. Also, he said conversations with Jet-blue about locating at the Airport continue to be positive but no official decision has been reached yet. He noted that unemployment numbers for our area is down to 7.6%, and as importantly, the number of unemployed has dropped below 20,000 and is actually hovering around 19,000.

Mr. Ehrhardt invited Board members to the upcoming *Volusia County Quarterly Economic Report* to be held on Friday, May 3, 2013. The Report presents statistical data on employment, residential permits, commercial permits, foreclosures, and other information. Mr. McDermott asked whether anyone was tracking the growth or hiring at AO Precision. Mr. Ehrhardt responded stating some equipment had been moved into the new building and the President, Steve Koch, still wants to hire more Level II and IV CNC Operators. Mr. Ehlinger congratulated Mr. Ehrhardt on feeding that pipeline to get more skilled workers and operators for that business.

B. Team Volusia Economic Development Corporation (TVEDC) – Keith Norden

Mr. Norden reported that the TVEDC new Program of Work continues to be very aggressive and there are now about 30 planned outreach activities including about 16 site selector missions. The *Plastec Tradeshow* in Orlando, FL was completed and a prospect has already visited the area. Additionally, TVEDC exhibited in Daytona Beach at the *PIA Tradeshow* and a prospect from that effort recently visited and is considering a land purchase in Volusia County. Mr. Norden also attended the Industrial Asset Management Council Tradeshow (IAMC) with about 300 corporate real estate executives and site location consultants. While there are several other trips being made outside Florida he keeps his eye on Florida as well. He attended a special event hosted by Enterprise Florida where he met with representatives of the top 20 companies. Right now the Economic Development Department of Florida Power & Light is leading the effort to establish a new Florida facility and TVEDC is working to see that this area is considered. He visited with representatives of Project Ringtone and confirmed we are high on their list as a “shelf” community being considered for that project which might mean a 60,000 square foot building and about 600 jobs. There is positive movement noted with *Frontier*, another customer support center which could mean a 20,000 square foot expansion and another 200 jobs. He added that all the help received the County, Practitioners, and others has been great!

Ms. Kilian asked how the website is going and he responded that it is working great. However, he needs to make sure the Board Realtors helps to populate the TVEDC site with regular accurate site information. Mr. McDermott commented that Mr. Norden should attend the Realtors Association meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at Destination Daytona which starts about 9:00 A.M. A good selection of all of the key commercial realtors will be there and he could speak directly to them.

C. Vision Foundation –*Larry McDermott, Vision Foundation Chair*

Ms. McDermott reported that the Foundation is working on setting up a clinic for the working uninsured between the ages of 18-65 that do not have adequate healthcare. They are looking for locations near bus lines and good transportation routes. They are still working with the Jesus Clinic and Dr. Feighenbaum is acting as our medical liaison and leader of that effort. Dr. Francine Barnes is acting as the Chair. The Affordable Healthcare Act still leaves many working persons uninsured as some businesses will try to employ people for fewer hours to avoid triggering mandatory healthcare coverage. Ms. Trager commented that there is a building located on Ridgewood Avenue in Holly Hill that used to house a clinic that might be a perfect location. Mr. McDermott said that he would look at that facility since they might have to start thinking “outside the box” but he had wanted to keep it in Daytona Beach. Also, they are working with Bethune-Cookman and other nursing programs to get medical assistance.

The train station and passenger rail situation seems to be on hold right now and we are still looking for All Aboard Florida to complete its negotiations to buy land from the Church of Latter Day Saints. The Amtrak train station and passenger rail station may have lost its steam.

5. New Business

There was no new business brought before the Board.

6. Old Business

Mr. Counts talked about and invited Board members and the public to attend the upcoming *Regional Fair Housing Summit* where the City will sponsor fifteen registrations (first come-first serve) in Orlando, FL. The event is scheduled 8:30 am-4:30 pm, April 30th at The Florida Hotel and Conference Center, at the Florida Mall, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, FL. This event is part of the City’s continuing commitment to educate the public, contractors, realtors, title companies, and others involved in the Daytona Beach real estate industry about Fair Housing Law, Impediments to Fair Housing, and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.

7. Citizens’ Comments

Ms. Betty Gonzalez a member of the Young Professionals Group (YPG) introduced herself to the Board. She attended the meeting today to find out more about how persons in their 20’s and 30’s could get involved with their communities. Some of the barriers we’ve run into include that persons are having children and starting careers so we are very busy. Ms. Kilian commented that the EDAB Board might be helpful to YPG and inquired if Betty was familiar with how to apply to be on a City board. Ms. Gonzalez responded that she had an overview of the application process and knows there’s a listing of openings. She would like to become more familiar with what is required per respective board.

Mr. Ehlinger added that one of the important factors for companies wanting to come here and/or stay here is the residents’ involvement in their community. We have had success at bringing companies here but somehow they didn’t feel invested in the community so can find it easier to leave. Through our efforts to retain companies we were able to connect key people with leaders and organizations and we could demonstrate that they are welcome and important to the community. It goes a long way toward how they feel about us and their empathy to participate and contribute to community activities.

Mr. Counts referred Ms. Gonzalez to the City Clerk’s Office to find out about each respective Board.

8. Election of Officers

A motion to approve Mr. McDermott as Chair and Ms. Trager as Vice-Chair, was made by McDermott, seconded by Mr. Ehlinger, and approved unanimously.

9. Schedule next meeting – May 15, 2013

(Additional meetings will be scheduled to accommodate business development needs)

2013 Proposed Meeting Schedule:

January 16;	July 17;
February 20;	August (no meeting);
March 20;	September (no meeting);
April 17;	October 16;
May 15;	November 13;
June (no meeting);	December (no meeting)

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 A.M.



Emory Counts
Director Economic/Community Development

Adopted: May 15, 2013