



Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, February 27, 2020, 2:30PM

EDAC Members: Jeffrey Arnold; Diane Bendekovic; Marlon C. Bruce; Erik Bredfeldt; Jared Hart; Dr. Barry Jacobson; Joakim Nordqvist; Dr. Gunnar Paulson; Trisha Roy; Julie Waldman; Dudley Wade; David Walle.

EDAC Members Present: Jeffrey Arnold; Diane Bendekovic; Marlon C. Bruce; Erik Bredfeldt; Joakim Nordqvist; Trisha Roy.

Others Present: Patricia Lee; Chance McCall; Edgar Campa-Palafox.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 27, 2020, 2:30 PM, Historic Thomas Center B.

1. Call to Order

EDAC Chair Jay Nordqvist called the meeting to order at 2:30pm. There was quorum in the meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

EDAC members adopted the February 2020 meeting agenda as presented.

3. Approval of January Minutes

The minutes from the January 23, 2020 meetings were approved as presented.

EDAC agendas and minutes are available for the members and the public at the Alachua County website or by request.

4. 2020 U.S. Census Update

Mr. Armon Lowery, U.S. Department of Commerce/Census Bureau Partnership Specialist, presented an update regarding the upcoming 2020 U.S. Census, and the activities to promote participation in the community.

Mr. Lowery presented the importance of the Census, and why it matters to the Alachua County region in terms of federal funding and political representation.

EDAC members presented questions and comments. Ms. Patricia Lee and Mr. Chance McCall, citizens attending the meeting, also presented comments and questions.

Mr. Lowery extended an invitation to attend the Complete Count Committee monthly meetings to anyone interested in helping to promote the Census in the community.

5. Discussion to Include C-CEC Update in Future Meeting

Economic Development Coordinator Edgar Campa-Palafox briefly recap the reason to have this discussion, referencing the previous discussion that took place in January 2020. During the January 2020 meeting, Ms. Patricia Lee, a citizen attending the meeting, requested the opportunity to present about a project that she is proposing for East Gainesville.

The project is named Center for Commerce Education and Culture (C-CEC), and Ms. Lee was requesting the opportunity to present the project details during a future EDAC meeting. By consensus, EDAC members decided to add a discussion during the February 2020 meeting regarding the possibility of adding this presentation to the roster of future meeting in 2020.

At the January 2020 meeting, EDAC asked Ms. Lee to share a summary of the project with County staff, so it can be shared with the members before the February meeting. The project summary was shared with EDAC members via email before the February 2020 meeting.

After hearing the recap, EDAC members discussed the pros and cons of having citizens presentations during EDAC meetings. As a result of the discussion, EDAC Member Diane Bendekovic moved to approve a presentation to the C-CEC presentation in a future EDAC meeting. EDAC Member Trisha Roy seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-3, with Trisha Roy and Marlon Bruce saying “Aye”, and, Joakim Nordqvist, Jeffrey Arnold, and Diane Bendekovic saying “Nay”.

6. Future Meeting Locations Discussion

Last month, due to the upcoming demolition of the Santa Fe CIED, EDAC members decided to move the January 2020 meeting to the Historic Thomas Center. During the January meeting, EDAC members discussed other location possibilities such as the County Administration Building and the Alachua County Freedom Center at Veterans Memorial Park.

EDAC Members discussed the possibility of having the remainder of 2020 meetings at the Freedom Center. However, members did not finalize the decision allowing to absent members the opportunity to give input about the new location.

During the February 2020 meeting, EDAC members discussed the pros and cons of the two locations. The consensus was to choose the Thomas Center as a meeting location for the rest of the year, pending a confirmation from the Thomas Center about the availability of the conference room.

7. BOCC Presentation

During the January 28, 2020 Regular BoCC Meeting, EDAC Chair Joakim Nordqvist presented an overview of the Committee Accomplishments and Work Plan Report. The presentation to the BoCC was recorded and can be found at the County's website video archive.

The link to the presentation is included below:

http://alachua.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=4166&meta_id=82288

During the January 28, 2020 meeting, the BoCC requested EDAC to add the following goals to the 2019-2020 EDAC plan:

- Review Potential Economic Impact of the Army Reserve's Equipment Concentration Site (ECS) locating in the former Alachua County Fairgrounds
- Review Potential Economic Impact of the Reuse/Circular Economy in Alachua County
- Review Economic Development Grant Funding Proposals

8. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.