

**Alachua County Advisory Boards
Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)
Accomplishments Report FY2018-19/ Annual Workplan 2019-2020**

Date: October 24, 2019

Board/Committee Name: Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)

Chair 2018/2019: Joakim Nordqvist

Vice Chair 2018/2019: David Walle

Board Liaison: Edgar Campa-Palafox

Brief History of Committee: The reconstitution of the Economic Development Advisory Committee was approved by the County Commission on August 12, 2008. Its purpose is to develop and provide policy recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners related to the promotion of sustainable economic development activities within Alachua County.

Mission Statement: The responsibility of the Economic Development Advisory Committee shall be to develop and provide policy recommendations to the County Commission related to the promotion of sustainable economic development activities within Alachua County.

Major Accomplishments in FY2018-19:

1. Provided motions/recommendations to the BoCC:
 - Motion urging to fund \$25,000 for the Tech Talent Initiative funding request, contingent to funding matches by UF and City of Gainesville, also requiring to open source the platform to other local non-for-profits.
 - Motion recommending to consider expanding the potential location options for the Alachua County Event Center, by including the entire geographic area of the County, in order to select the location that will maximize its success and financial sustainability. The expanded location analysis can be performed by the same or new consulting firm.
 - Motion supporting Working Food initiative by continuing the financial support of \$50,000 by Alachua County, pending City of Gainesville support.
2. Heard Presentations and provided input regarding the following topics:
 - Eco Industrial Park Groundbreaking Recap
 - Equity-Based Amendments to Alachua County Economic Element
 - Alachua County Event Center Update
 - Fairgrounds Redevelopment Area Update
 - Road to 2020 U.S. Census Presentation
 - Local Food Procurement Standards/Working Food Presentation

- Tech Talent Initiative Funding Request
- Alachua County Event Center Location Discussion
- Business Plan Update/ Eco-Industrial Park
- Business Criteria Selection/ Eco-Industrial Park
- State of Florida Legislative Session Recap
- City of Hawthorne Trail Town Application Update
- Opportunity Zone Prospectus Discussion
- City of Gainesville Broadband Study Update
- Eco Industrial Park Real Estate Plan Discussion

3. Provided the following letters of support:

- City of High Springs Competitive Florida Partnership program application
- City of Hawthorne Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) application
- City of Hawthorne Trail Town application

Goals & Objectives for FY2019-20:

- Monitor and provide recommendations in the development of the Sales Surtax Initiative to be place in the 2020 general election ballot
- Monitor and provide recommendations to Alachua County's proposal to develop an Event Center in the Celebration Pointe area
- Monitor and provide recommendations to the development of the business and marketing plan of the Alachua County Eco-Industrial Park
- Encourage initiative to advance reliable and affordable internet infrastructure in Alachua County.
- Support the development of municipalities' bike/pedestrian plans and ecotourism for integration into a County-wide plan (Trail Towns)
- Monitor and provide input related to the new CRA funding allocated for East Gainesville
- Evaluate proposal for International Center Initiative
- Monitor and support Gainesville Regional Airport initiatives and determine if Alachua County can be of assistance in supporting their growth

Standing Goals:

- Continue to encourage responsible east county development and provide recommendations to BoCC.
- Support initiatives to diversify local economy in targeted industries.
- Provide recommendations to the BoCC regarding economic development activities and projects at the Old Fairgrounds, Eco-Industrial Park, and East County development as needed.

- Provide recommendations, as necessary, to the BoCC related to QTI proposals; Florida Flex; future business development; grant funding; zoning; and, incentives zones.
- Committee will take a more public proactive role in the community in evaluating and advancing the County's competitiveness.
- Support regional workforce board and education training entities in training and retraining to prepare individuals for skilled employment. Support innovative programs such as Startup Quest and eWITS.
- Collaborate with state economic development agencies in promoting economic development in Alachua County.
- Extend invitation to smaller municipalities to participate in EDAC monthly meetings.
- Invite economic development stakeholders to attend one EDAC meeting to discuss alignment and economic development priorities in the community.
- Monitor, support as appropriate, engage, and provide input regarding the new Gainesville Chamber strategic plan and implementation
- Assist County Economic Development Coordinator in accomplishing goals and objectives of EDAC work plan.