



**BUSINESS CLIMATE COMMITTEE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2011**

Committee Members in attendance – alphabetically:

Jon Bednerik
Jim Bos
Kathleen Cornett
Ted Ehrlichman
Bob Girard
David Greenberg
Ben Hatcher
Dennis Hendrickson
Kevin Hicks

Jeff Maultsby
George McGonagill
Rob Morris
Steve Padgett
Jim Paulmann
Michael Ritter
Mary Slapp
Jamie Stone

Committee Members not in attendance – alphabetically:

Mike Bryant
Mireya Eavey
John Fain
Steve Hall
Teri Hansen
Stephanie Kempton
David Kramer
Allan Lane
Marc Mansfield

Chris Pfahler
Paul Smith
Leroy Sullivan
Tom Wells
Michael Schulz
John Stump
Daisy Vulovich
Sue Wolverton

Invited Guests:

Rob Lewis
Tom Polk

Donna Thompson

Staff

Donna Carden
Joan McGill

Lee Kotwicki

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair, Kevin Hicks, called the meeting of the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County (EDC) Business Climate Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Business Climate Chair for 2011-2012 (Kevin Hicks)

Kevin announced that Jim Bos will be the Chair of the Business Climate Committee for the upcoming 2011/2012 fiscal year. Kevin thanked Jim for taking on this role.

b. EDC Legislative Priorities for 2012 (Joan McGill)

Because the Legislature meets earlier next year, there is an urgency to develop the legislative priorities for 2012. A task group was formed and includes Mary Slapp, Chair and committee members Jim Paulmann, Jeff Maultsby, George McGonagill, and Jamie Stone. Joan will follow up with an e-mail confirming the first meeting date. Jim Bos also agreed to attend. The task group will work towards having the priorities prepared by the next Committee meeting so they can be ratified and presented to the EDC Board on Oct. 20.

c. ILW Zoning Text Amendment (Rob Lewis)

The County is considering some text changes related to ILW zoning and Rob Lewis and his team of Tom Polk and Donna Thompson were present to explain the changes and impact of the proposed amendment. Rob explained that there have been a number of projected projects over the last few years that had identified a property, but were not a permitted use within the ILW zoning. The Board of County Commissioners as well as some members of the private sector has been encouraging changes that would permit more uses. The text changes will only affect 1440 acres currently located in the MEC's and will help revitalize older MEC land. The text changes conflict with some language in the Comprehensive Plan, so the Comprehensive Plan must first be amended. A Workshop is scheduled for October 27th at the Colonial Oaks Park for public input. After the Comprehensive Plan is amended, then the Zoning Text Amendment will follow. The zoning text changes will allow some smaller commercial uses within the ILW with limitations on retail vs. warehouse use in a facility. Any project over 40,000 would need a special exception. Parking requirements will remain the same and will limit the type of commercial that can go into a facility. Rob suggested that this remain as an agenda item for the next meeting at which time he will provide an update.

d. Other Items for Discussion from Members

There was nothing to report.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. FPL Program for Expanding Businesses (Joan McGill)

FPL received approval for special electric rates for expanding businesses. FPL has also established an Economic Development Office and Rae Dowling arranged for the EDC to meet the director of that office, Lynn Prince, and his staff. FPL plans to be an active participant in economic development projects.

b. County Update (Rob Lewis/Jeff Maultsby)

Rob circulated Development Services 4th Quarter Performance report (attached) and noted the decline in commercial permits. Rob also provided samples of “sales” packets for the committee to review. Rob stated the County has a lot of tools available to businesses and wants the committee members and others to be aware of these tools and help market them to others. It was suggested that the EDC may want to post these tools on the new website.

4. OPEN DISCUSSION

There was a discussion of possible topics the committee should follow this next year. Kevin suggested reviewing the original mission and purpose of the Business Climate Committee at the next meeting to determine if it should be amended. Any changes would need approval of the EDC Board. Jim Bos asked if the EDC had received any requests for Advocacy to learn how the evaluation matrix worked. Joan replied the EDC has not but that it should be included in the EDC newsletters so the public is aware of the application.

Kevin suggested minutes of the Business Climate Committee meetings should be approved at the start of each meeting. He also noted that he would like to see the Board minutes accessible through our website to anyone, not just restricted to the Board portal.

Joan thanked those committee members who attended the Industry Tour.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County Business Climate Committee adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **October 17th** from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the EDC offices.