



**BUSINESS CLIMATE COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 20, 2010**

Committee Members in attendance – alphabetically:

**Jim Bos
Ted Ehrlichman
Kevin Hicks
Joe McElmeel
Marc Mansfield
Jeff Maulsby
Rob Morris**

**Steve Padgett
Mike Ritter
Mary Slapp
Jamie Stone
Daisy Vulovich
Tom Wells**

Committee Members not in attendance – alphabetically:

**Jon Bednerik
Lee DeLieto, Sr.
John Fain
C. J. Fishman
Teri Hansen
Allan Lane**

**Brian Meurs
Laura Murphy
Chris Pfahler
Stephanie Kempton
Donald Watson
Mike Wilson**

Invited Guests:

**Brad Bailey
Rob Lewis**

Donna Thompson

Staff - alphabetically:

**Lee Kotwicki
Ron Maloney**

Joan McGill

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. Sarasota County Commercial Redevelopment Zoning Code
Presentation of Proposed Changes for Committee's Input (Rob Lewis/Brad Bailey)

Rob Lewis provided an overview of what his department is responsible for, which is everything from the beginning to the end of a commercial/residential project, including, but not limited to, land use,

survey mapping, permitting, etc. There are many obstacles with the currently process that were put in place many years ago; therefore, in order to improve the current process, Rob's department is developing a list of proposed zoning code changes. These will be presented for approval to the Board of County Commissioners in late fall or early 2011. The committee is asked to provide their input as quickly as possible and Rob Lewis is happy to meet with any interested committee members. At this point in time, there are approximately 20 recommendations for changes. Brad will send the current list to Joan, who in turn will distribute it to the committee. The suggestion was made to reach out to individuals who have had issues in the past and County representatives indicated they would be doing so. Rob Lewis offered to attend future business climate committee meetings on a bi-monthly basis.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. County Regulatory Issues Project – Status Update (Kevin Hicks/Joan McGill)
The regulatory document is still in draft form and should be ready for distribution in November.
- b. EDC's Advocacy Policy Update (Kevin Hicks)
Kevin reported that the Board has approved the advocacy position as presented and the business climate committee is now asked to prepare the matrix. Joan will send out a couple of proposed dates and times for the advocacy committee to meet.

4. OPEN DISCUSSION

Ron Maloney was asked to give a brief synopsis of the recent Panama Mission trip. Ron stated there were 19 individuals on the trip and 8 companies were represented. The companies had two full days of appointments with potential customers. Panama is the second largest free trade zone in the world and moves over \$9 billion in product per year. The next nearest port is Port Manatee. Future plans include the building of over 20 hotels, a new railroad, and a wireless mobile infrastructure.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County Business Climate Committee adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **October 18th** from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the EDC offices.