



**BUSINESS CLIMATE COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 22, 2010**

Committee Members in attendance – alphabetically:

**Jim Bos
CJ Fishman
Teri Hansen
Stephanie Kempton**

**Jeff Maultsby
Laura Murphy
Michael Ritter
Mary Slapp
Daisy Vulovich (via telephone)**

Committee Members not in attendance – alphabetically:

**Jon Bednerik
Lee DeLieto, Sr.
John Fain
Kevin Hicks
Allan Lane
Leslie Loveless
Marc Mansfield
Joe McElmeel**

**Brian Meurs
Jim Paulman
Chris Pfahler
Jeffrey Phillips
Carolyn Piano
Bill Robey
Jamie Stone
Leroy Sullivan
Donald Watson**

Staff:

**Kathy Baylis
Lee Kotwicki**

Joan McGill

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Teri Hansen 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. SUNSHINE AND OPEN RECORDS LAW

Kathy Baylis reported that Citizens for Sunshine have filed two lawsuits against the EDC. The EDC Board has voluntarily agreed to comply with the Sunshine Law until and if it should be determined that the law is not applicable. Therefore, the EDC must notice the meetings of committees of the board, including the Business Climate Committee, so the public may attend. Minutes of all meetings noticed will be posted on the website for public viewing.

3. STANDING REPORTS – UPDATES

a. Procurement
No report.

b. Inventory of Public Facilities

Jeff Maultsby reported that state procurement laws prohibit local government from leasing to private entities. There is both a House and Senate bill proposed this legislative session

that would, if successful, allow local government to lease to private businesses for a limited amount of time. For the benefit of the new members he explained the County wants to compile an inventory of public facilities that could be leased to new, relocating, or expanding businesses in the county at a discounted rate for a limited time.

c. Angel/Venture Capital

Joan McGill reported that the Gulf Coast Angel Forum (GCVF) continues their monthly meetings and that the GCVF currently has 18 members and are continuing to grow their membership.

d. Upcoming Regional Events

Kathy Baylis advised that she will be participating on a panel discussion this Friday in Ft. Myers for the Lee County Horizon Council. The program is about the Southwest Florida Economic Development Partnership. She further shared that the Tampa Bay Partnership is working with the Central Florida Partnership to create a super region. Citrus County has expressed an interest in joining the Tampa Bay Partnership, which would, if approved would expand the TBP to eight counties.

e. Recovery Zone Facility Bonds

Jeff Maultsby reported that the second round is complete for the tax-free recovery zone facility bonds and a third round of applications are now being accepted. Deadline for the third round is March 31, 2010. The companies that were allocated funds in the first two rounds have until June 30, 2010 to close on their loan. If they do not close on a timely basis, the Board has reserved the right to reissue the funds to other applicants.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Business Climate Survey – Preliminary Report

Stephanie Kempton presented a power point, which summarized the results of the business climate survey her organization prepared. Lee will send the summary report to the members of the committee and provide a link to the full report.

b. Status of County Project

Joan McGill reported that a request for qualifications (RFQ) was developed describing the scope of work. It was sent to 12 consultants and four responses were received. A summary of the proposals was reviewed by the committee and two firms were selected to be interviewed. Kathy, Joan and Stephanie were asked to interview the two firms to review their proposed processes and select one of the firms to conduct the study.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. County Initiatives

Postponed.

b. Future agendas will include “Public Comment”

6. **ADJOURN**

The meeting of the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County Business Climate Committee adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be on **March 15th** from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the EDC offices.