



**BUSINESS CLIMATE COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 17, 2010**

Committee Members in attendance – alphabetically:

**Jon Bednerik
Jim Bos
John Fain
Teri Hansen
Kevin Hicks
Stephanie Kempton**

**Leslie Loveless
Jeff Maultsby
Jim Paulman
Michael Ritter
Jamie Stone
Daisy Vulovich
Mike Wilson**

Committee Members not in attendance – alphabetically:

**Lee DeLieto, Sr.
C. J. Fishman
Allan Lane
Marc Mansfield
Joe McElmeel
Brian Meurs
Laura Murphy**

**Chris Pfahler
Jeffrey Phillips
Carolyn Piano
Bill Robey
Mary Slapp
Leroy Sullivan
Donald Watson**

Staff:

Kathy Baylis

Lee Kotwicki

Invited Guest:

John Streitmatter

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. County Regulatory Issues Project (Interim Report – John Streitmatter)
A number of issues have arisen as a result of the interviews to date. John summarized these: a significant cultural shift needs to

happen, consistent applications of the regulations and policies through the County, reduce turnaround times with a more integrated interview process, such as meeting with all required individuals at one meeting. Stephanie suggested the next business climate survey include specific local issues. The target date for the final report is July 1st.

b. County Update (Jeff Maultsby)

Jeff recently attended the legislative session and a number of items were discussed. TDC membership can now be increased from nine to 13 seats, two of which will be filled by public officials and two from the private sector. Kathy asked if there was any specific designation and Jeff will follow up to obtain the answer. The jobs tax credit bill and PACE (property assessed clean energy) were approved. Both bills still need to be signed by the Speaker of the House and then submitted to the Governor for final approval. Jeff distributed copies of the bills. The EEZ did not receive any incentives this year, but language will be included in the legislation this year stating incentives are needed and they will be addressed in the next legislative session. Jeff distributed two documents describing the bills, copies of which will be posted with the minutes.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

Jim Paulman reported on the Economic Energy Zone. He asked for comments from the Board, which can be submitted by accessing www.scgov.net, planning services, comprehensive plan, comprehensive plan amendments.

4. **STANDING REPORTS - UPDATES**

a. Procurement
No report

b. Inventory of Public Facilities

The bill was passed at both the Senate and House of Representatives levels. It is waiting to be signed by the Governor. If approved, it will allow the County to lease space without a competitive bid to a new or expanding business for the next five years.

c. Angel/Venture Capital
No report.

d. Upcoming Regional Events

The 2010 Super Regional Conference is being held May 26 and May 27 at the Gaylord Palms in Kissimmee. The cost is \$229. More information is available on the Tampa Bay Partnership website.

- e. Recovery Zone Facility Bonds
No report.

5. **OPEN DISCUSSION**

a. Upcoming Events

Daisy stated May 24th is National Small Business Week. A day-long business growth conference will be held Thursday, May 27th at SCF-Lakewood Ranch. Kathy mentioned the EDC Investor Update Breakfast scheduled for June 9th at Mission Valley Country Club. Stephanie, Kevin and Terry will be speaking at the event. Jim Paulman announced the EEZ public meeting being held Thursday, May 20th at the South County Administration building.

b. Other

Economic injury assistance for companies affected by the oil spill is being offered, such as SBA loans. Daisy will look into this further. Daisy also mentioned that SCF sent a staff member to USF Connect to review the resources they offer. Results of that visit will be discussed on October 20th at the Venice campus of SCF. Leslie mentioned she will be attending a workforce solutions conference in June in Los Angeles. She also stated that funding for the summer youth employment program has been denied.

6. **ADJOURN**

The meeting of the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County Business Climate Committee adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **June 21st** from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the EDC offices.