

City of Rowlett
Economic Development Advisory Board

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

9:30 A.M.

Rowlett Chamber of Commerce, 4418 Main Street, Rowlett Texas 75088

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Barry Young called the Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. on March 21, 2017 at the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce at 4418 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas. In attendance: Tammy Dana-Bashian, Barry Young, Rick Sheffield, Drew Howard, Diane Lemmons, Michael Gallops, Eva Hummel, Brian Funderburk, Jim Grabenhorst, Joey Grisham, and Nathan Weber.

2. CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 21, 2017 MEETING.

A motion was made by Tammy Dana-Bashian and seconded by Michael Gallops to approve the February 21, 2017 minutes with revisions. The motion carried unanimously.

3. RECEIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATE.

Director of Economic Development, Jim Grabenhorst, presented the Economic Development Department update. He shared that packaged liquor sales tax receipts for the full fiscal year of 2016 equated to approximately \$86,000. The City currently has four stores authorized to sell packaged liquor. The sales tax receipts for packaged liquor sales are anticipated to rise as additional stores come to Rowlett. Mr. Grabenhorst stated that sales tax receipts for packaged liquor sales are currently allocated towards funding strategic economic development incentives and thanked City Council for their continued support of this economic development initiative.

Mr. Grabenhorst announced that Baylor Scott & White – Lake Pointe plans to have the groundbreaking event for their new addition on April 27, 2017 at 5:00 PM with formal invitations to come directly from Baylor Scott & White.

Assistant Director of Economic Development, Joey Grisham, shared that the Economic Development department has ordered new marketing maps from Aerial Focus and that they should arrive around the first of April.

Economic Development Specialist, Nathan Weber, shared with the Board that he turned in his resignation effective March 31, 2017. He and his wife plan to move to Europe for mission work.

Diane Lemmons shared that she has turned in her resignation as President of the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce. She has accepted a position with The Colony, TX Economic Development Corporation.

Mr. Grisham shared that the Economic Development Department and Rowlett Chamber of Commerce are planning a Business Roundtable event on April 26, 2017. The focus of this event will be on the banking sector and how they can address needs for Rowlett businesses.

Mr. Grisham shared with the Board that the Economic Development Department is working with CoStar to hold a State of the Market lunch event for local real estate professionals on March 30, 2017.

4. RECEIVE CHAMBER/CHAMBER FOUNDATION UPDATE.

Chamber of Commerce President, Diane Lemmons, provided the Chamber update. She reminded the Board that the 38th annual Chamber Community Awards Banquet would be March 23, 2017 at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Garland.

Eva Hummel provided the Chamber Foundation update. She shared that the Foundation account balance was \$54,897 and the Rebuild Rowlett account balance was \$38,154.

The Board discussed Rebuild Rowlett and the current issues that certain people rebuilding from the tornado are encountering.

The Board discussed the lack of state licensing for contractors and the issue of contractors leaving tornado damaged properties before work is complete.

Mrs. Lemmons shared that the Chamber Foundation requested their annual contribution from the Garland Independent School District and anticipates receiving those funds in the near future.

She also announced that the April, 2017 Rowlett Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon topic would be a Meet the Candidates Forum.

5. RECEIVE GISD UPDATE.

Jim Grabenhorst provided the GISD update. He shared that the Career and Technology center is on track to open in the fall of 2017. He stated that due to the transportation needs of students going to the Career and Technology center, Rowlett High School would become an open campus.

He also shared that times for high school and middle school are being adjusted and will affect starting and dismissal times beginning in the fall of 2017.

Mr. Grabenhorst stated that there had been questions regarding the interim GISD Superintendent and whether or not she would be interested in becoming the permanent Superintendent. He shared that the interim Superintendent has confirmed that she is not interested in being the permanent Superintendent.

Barry Young discussed workforce development and the importance of giving students the opportunity to learn technical skills that can be applied to the workforce immediately after graduation. He applauded GISD for their dedication to workforce development.

6. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND/OR STAFF MAY MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LOCAL CIVIC EVENTS. NO MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR COMMISSION MAY DISCUSS NOR TAKE ANY ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Michael Gallops shared that House Bill 3293 has been submitted this legislative session and covers the licensing of roofers.

Jim Grabenhorst shared that the western section of Main Street would start having closures March 20, 2017 for infrastructure repairs.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD MAY REQUEST TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDA MEETINGS. NO MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR COMMISSION MAY DISCUSS ANY OF THE REQUESTED SUBJECTS UNTIL SUCH MATTER HAS BEEN PROPERLY PLACED ON A POSTED AGENDA.


No suggestions were made for future topics of discussion for future agendas.

7. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Barry Young at 10:20 A.M.



Barry Young, Chairman



Date Approved



Jim Grabenhorst, Assigned City Staff