

City of Rowlett
Economic Development Advisory Board

Monday, August 26, 2019

9:00 A.M.

Economic Development Office, 5702 Rowlett Road, Rowlett, TX 75089

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Vice Chairman Barry Young called the Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:04 A.M. on August 26, 2019 at the Economic Development Office, 5702 Rowlett Road, Rowlett, Texas. In attendance: Tammy Dana-Bashian, Drew Howard, Whitney Laning, Barry Young, Mick Donnelly, Michael Smith, Chris Kizziar, Michael Gallops, Larry Glick, Brian Funderburk, Jim Grabenhorst, Lexie Woodward and Susan Nix.

2. CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 16, 2019 MEETING.

A motion was made by Tammy Dana-Bashian and seconded by Michael Smith to approve the July 16, 2019 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. DISCUSSION ON BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS.

Director of Economic Development, Jim Grabenhorst explained Lexie researched the make up and mission statements of Economic Development departments and Economic Development Corporations (EDC) Boards in the area. He then reviewed the existing makeup of the Board. The floor was opened up for discussion and input and there was discussion. Various Board members discussed board requirements and qualifications of neighboring EDC's. Tammy Dana-Bashian asked that the Board review the Board Mission Statement (item number four) before returning to this item. It was decided to not make any changes for the upcoming year until additional discussion occurs.

4. DISCUSSION ON EDAB MISSION STATEMENT.

Mayor Tammy Dana-Basham said that the Board Mission Statement had been reviewed a couple of years prior. She asked the Board to review the mission statements in the provided handout. She noted that we are not an EDC but an economic development department of a City. Brian Funderburk noted that there are several different organizations working on economic development in Rowlett as opposed to a single EDC that's responsible for all economic development. Whitney Laning asked if the Board was happy with the current direction it's headed or would the Board like to expand it. Mick Donnelly shared his ratings of the different EDC mission statements. Mick asked if the Board should have a greater understanding of what's developing in Rowlett so they may better advise staff and council. He asked if we were a Type A or Type B EDC. Tammy Dana-Basham and Jim Grabenhorst explained the differences between an Economic Development Department and EDC's, including Type A and Type B EDC's. The question of whether the Board is active or passive was brought up by Tammy and Mick. Michael Gallops stated the Board is passive because it is an advisory board. Drew Howard provided history of how the Board was different prior to the creation of an Economic Development Department and how the Board has evolved since then. Larry said the Board did not have any input in Sapphire Bay and asked if the Board should be involved. He went on to say the Board should be suggesting ideas to staff and/or council. The item was deferred for additional conversation at the next EDAB meeting.

5. RECEIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATE.

Director of Economic Development, Jim Grabenhorst presented the Economic Development Department update which included reminding the Board about the North Texas Commercial Association of Realtors (NTCAR) event next week, provided an Interstate 30/TXDOT update, and presented the Sapphire Bay information from the Town Hall Meeting. Jim stated that as of March 7th, I-30 design plans are at 30% and they are working on the 60% design plans. The latter should be completed by the end of September and mid-2023 is the completion timeline. Brian reminded the Board that this is just for the stretch of highway from Garland's Bass Pro Dr. to Rowlett's Dalrock exit. Jim also mentioned that the Chamber Golf Tournament is coming up and that the Board has the ability to bring players and/or teams to participate. Lastly, there was discussion on the loss of a major sales tax revenue generator that was referenced in the City Council budget discussions.

6. RECEIVE CHAMBER/CHAMBER FOUNDATION UPDATE.

Chris Kizziar reported that the Chamber was working on Chamber accreditation and that they are researching information on a convention and visitors bureau. Chris reported that the Chamber Foundation awarded a Sign Grant to Brady Ingle Insurance (Farmers

Insurance) last week and that the Board approved five \$1,000 scholarships for students graduation from Rowlett High School.

7. RECEIVE GISD UPDATE.

Larry Glick said they'll approve their tax rate tomorrow and that it will go from \$1.46 to \$1.39. He said a demographer report was done and that he'll talk about that at the next EDAB meeting. He said that the Natatorium is on schedule and projected to be completed in August of 2020.

8. 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.

Jim Grabenhorst and Brian Funderburk talked about the budget meeting tomorrow and the public hearings scheduled for September 3rd and 17th.

9. 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.

Larry Glick mentioned that the Golf Advisory Board members share ideas and that may be an opportunity for EDAB members to share similar information at meetings. Whitney Laning talked about his visit to DART's headquarters. He said they are looking at air taxis and landing zones within the next ten years and that may need to be a topic for future consideration. Jim Grabenhorst said that in the development world there's a lot of talk about incorporating drone shipping and landing pads.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Drew Howard at approximately 11:34 A.M.



Drew Howard, Chairman

9/17/19

Date Approved



Jim Grabenhorst, Assigned City Staff