

City of Rowlett
Economic Development Advisory Board

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

8:39 A.M.

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

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Drew Howard called the Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board meeting to order at 8:39 A.M. on February 18, 2020 at the Economic Development Office, 5702 Rowlett Road, Rowlett, Texas. In attendance: Tammy Dana-Bashian, Drew Howard, Mick Donnelly, Michael Smith, Robert Lacroix, Barry Young, Larry Glick, Brian Funderburk, Jim Grabenhorst and Susan Nix.

2. PUBLIC INPUT ON ANY AGENDAY ITEM.

There were no speakers.

3. CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 19, 2019 MEETING.

A motion was made by Tammy Dana-Bashian and seconded by Barry Young to approve the January 21, 2020 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. BOARD MEMBERS SHARE TOPICS AND IDEAS RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Robert Lacroix talked about an article he read in the February 2020 American Planning Association (APA) magazine regarding downtown development, some events he's seen in other cities downtowns, various lots/properties in our downtown, and discussed the value of small efforts.

Tammy Dana-Bashian encouraged those who had not yet viewed the Town Hall meeting to do so, it is available online.

5. BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION (BRE) UPDATE.

Jim Grabenhorst noted that both Lexie Woodward and Sheila Hair were in Austin for Leadership Rowlett. As such, Jim provided an update on recent BRE visits and interactions Lexie had been involved in. He also mentioned the email Lexie sent inviting board members to attend two upcoming BRE visits.

6. CITY KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING ITEMS.

- a. Economic Development Department Update:** Jim Grabenhorst presented a commercial real estate snap shot presented at the Economic Development Partnership Luncheon. Mick Donnelly asked about small companies wanting to expand versus small companies looking for small spaces and big companies looking for big spaces. He went on to mention a business park he saw in Mississippi State. Discussion on North Shore ensued. Tammy Dana-Bashian brought up a map that Economic Development had provided to Councilmember Whitney Laning per his request. This led to a discussion about multi-family. Jim brought up the new format for the quarterly By The Numbers Report and briefly discussed the sales tax figure. He talked about a new push at the state comptrollers office regarding sales tax incentive agreements. Brian Funderburk added to the conversation and online purchases were also discussed. Lastly, Jim provided an update on development projects citywide and concluded with information on the development timeline for Sapphire Bay.
- b. Rowlett Chamber/Chamber Foundation Update:** No update was provided for the Chamber. Larry Glick said that the Chamber Foundation was trying to do more grants.
- c. GISD Update:** Larry Glick discussed the PTEC (Pathways in Technology Early College High School) program and various partners on that effort. Larry went through a list of projects for a potential bond election currently being considered by the Board.
- d. Knowledge Topic – Water Discussion in North Texas:** Due to time constraints, this item was tabled until the next meeting, March 17th.

7. 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.

Brian Funderburk said there are three Council seats open, one of which will be contested. He also mentioned a new Parks & Recreation event, Lunch On The Lawn.



Larry Glick said there are two GISD Board seats open, one of which is contested. Larry brought up the fact that he gets questions about expanding the Miller Road bridge. Tammy Dana-Bashian said that was a thirty million dollar project.

8. 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.


Drew Howard requested that Brian Funderburk provide a list of transportation improvements that Rowlett has requested funding participation with Dallas County. Drew also requested an update or information about to the management contract with Waterview Golf Course.

9. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Drew Howard at approximately 10:45 A.M.


Mick Donnelly, Vice
-Drew Howard, Chairman


Date Approved


Jim Grabenhorst, Assigned City Staff