

City of Rowlett
Economic Development Advisory Board

Tuesday, May 17, 2022
8:30 A.M.

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mick Donnelly called the Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board meeting to order at 8:36 A.M. on May 17, 2022. In attendance: Brian Funderburk, Chairman Mick Donnelly, Larry Glick, Sheila Hair, Chris Kizziar, Mark Hall, Michael Gallops, and Paula Allen. Staff: Jennifer Stewart and Charles Mazarakes. Absent was Libbey Tucker and Eva Hummel.

2. PUBLIC INPUT ON ANY AGENDA ITEM.

There was no public input.

3. CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 19, 2022 MEETING.

A motion was made by Paula Allen and seconded by Chris Kizziar to approve the April 19, 2022 minutes with the correction of adding Larry Glick as in attendance. The motion carried unanimously.

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

5. CITY KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING ITEMS.

a. **Economic Development Department Update:** Charles Mazarakes, Economic Development Specialist, provided the BRE update and new businesses. There were four new businesses and eighty-nine jobs created. He toured Gleco Plating with Matt Fodge and discussed getting together to have an industrial manufacturing round table as part of workforce initiative. Matt has agreed to be a part of the round table along with H&S Manufacturing. Charles discussed sales tax for March which is up 12.96%. He had six BRE visits this month.

Charles discussed marketing updates this past month, noting we highlighted our healthcare systems and have a newsletter coming out soon. We have about 1,600 jobs in healthcare here in Rowlett. We highlighted Rowlett Young Professionals Network; it is going well. Also highlighted in social media post is the opening of Hawaiian Bros and had a lot of traffic on social media. We had a Shop Local campaign during Small Business week, and they highlighted Hot Diggity Dog. Lexie's boutique in downtown will be closing, and she will be focusing on an online presence. In July we have our Texas Downtown assessment by Texas Downtown Association. Downtown managers from other communities will spend the day here and will give us a report on where we can improve on our downtown area.

Next Charles gave an update on our social media numbers. We have 100 new Instagram followers and 110 new Facebook followers. Our website had 1,223 total visitors with the top visitors from Dallas, Garland, and Rowlett.

Brian Funderburk gave an update on North Shore. Jackson Shaw should be moving forward within the next month or two. There was a referendum filed on the zoning, but it was invalid. They didn't have enough signatures and a zoning change can't be challenged.

Next Brian gave an update on Sapphire Bay, development. The amended hotel and development agreements were approved by Council on May 3. They are moving forward with the smaller hotel to be built first, the Surf Park, and Lagoon. However, they did announce at that meeting that they have attained funding to build the entire project at once. Zale Properties is moving forward with the 400-unit rental property and should open in 2024.

Charles mentioned other developments in downtown; Skyview on Main will be twenty-eight units for rent and first floor will be retail. The Cotton Gin is being renovated for restaurant, coffee shop and retail.

b. Rowlett Chamber/Chamber Foundation Update: Mark Hall gave the Chamber update; He announced that Michael Gallops received his master's degree. Leadership Rowlett helped with some landscaping around Rowlett High School and at the Coyle House in Pecan Grove Park. The Hometown Heroes banquet went well. The monthly luncheon had Steve Black as guest speaker, and he spoke about how to market your brand. The Freedom 5k will take place on July 4.

Sheila Hair gave the update for the Chamber Foundation; they received a \$1,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation for entrepreneurship pilot program at Rowlett High School

and a \$2,500 grant for workforce development. They will be doing a grant presentation at Friday Night Live to Discover Physical Therapy for their sign. They have received two scholarship applications but are expecting more.

c. GISD Update: Larry Glick gave update for GISD. They made national news by making the starting salary for teachers to \$60,000 and gave 5% raises to all teachers and 4% to other staff. Larry talked about the history of the Gilbreath-Reed Career and Technical Center.

d. Knowledge Topic: Rowlett Housing Finance Corporation: Brenda Munk, Principal of the Gilbreath-Reed Career and Technical Center gave a tour of the school.

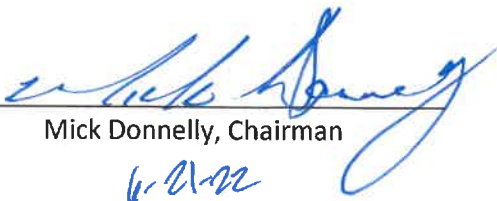
6. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND/OR STAFF MAY MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LOCAL CIVIC EVENTS. NO MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR COMMISSION MAY DISCUSS NOR TAKE ANY ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS.


7. 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.

Brian Funderburk suggested we have a more in-depth presentation on Sapphire Bay at the next meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:50 A.M.


Mick Donnelly, Chairman
6-21-22


Libbey Tucker, Assigned City Staff

Date Approved