

City of Rowlett

Economic Development Advisory Board

Thursday, January 22, 2009

8:30 A.M.

City Hall Conference Room, 4000 Main Street Rowlett, TX 75088

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order

Greg Sims called to order the **Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board at 8:30 A.M. on January 22, 2009** at the **City Hall Conference Room, 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas**. In attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel, Mayor John Harper, Greg Sims, Drew Howard, Ben White, Larry Glick, Mary Alice Etheridge, Lynda Humble, George Harris, Ben White and Diane Hayes.

II. Welcome and Introduction. Item 2 on Agenda

Greg Sims welcomed the board to the meeting. Mayor Harper introduced Rowlett's new City Manager Lynda Humble to the board. Greg Sims welcomed the Mayor back to the board.

III. Consider approval of minutes from October 23, 2008 meeting. Item 3. on Agenda

Motion to approve the minutes from December 18, 2008 by Drew Howard and second by Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel with a change to the first page regarding A.M and P.M. Motion carried.

IV. Discuss the roles, responsibilities and strategies of the Economic Development Advisory Board. Item 4 on Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel spoke to the board about getting more engaged and expressed the need for confidentiality with current and future developments. Mayor Harper indicated that this will be discussed with the City Council as well. If disclosed, information could cause problems with opportunities for development in our future. Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel asked the board again to open their rolodex and help with the attraction of new business to Rowlett. Mayor Harper stated that he welcomes the chance to meet with contacts to help with new business opportunities in Rowlett. Mayor Harper stated this board is situated in the community to know where the opportunities are and this board has a responsibility for outreach. Drew Howard suggested the board sign confidentially agreements.

V. GISD Update. Item 5 on Agenda

Larry Glick gave the update for the school district. The Garland Chamber of Commerce had their annual appreciation luncheon. They passed out an annual report to all of their members. Mr. Glick was introduced at the luncheon to several developers. Mr. Glick spoke of the school districts fund balance being down from 80 million to 62 million. The school district is getting close to reaching certain thresholds and unless something happens they will have to hold the election to ask for the additional 13 cents tax rate. Mayor Harper asked what the timing on this would be and Mr. Glick stated he does not know at this time. Mr. Glick informed the board that at this time the school district is waiting to see what happens in Austin that could impact the school districts decision to wait.

VI. City Update. Item 6 on Agenda

Mayor Harper gave the city update. All segments of the George Bush Eastern Extension are under way. The Coyle house has been moved. PGBT is still on track for 2011 completion date. DART light rail has a meeting January 27th. This board is invited to attend. The DART board will select a design builder for Rowlett's light rail at this meeting. The DART project is on schedule as planned thus far and will be completed in 2012. There has been interest from the developer of the City Center at Waters Edge to move the station down closer to the development and DART is not opposed to this information but there will have to be funding for this at the expense of the developer. This information was passed on to the developer. Greg Sims asked if there is any new information on the higher education developments. Mayor Harper was informed that Texas A&M Commerce has invited Lone Star Companies to visit with them on February 9th, 2009. They will have all of the Vice Presidents and other key individuals present at this meeting. The city is also engaged in conversations with Texas Tech and we plan to visit with them and make the same proposition to them as we have with Texas A&M Commerce. There are other cities competing for these higher education expansions. The DART rail is very important to the success of these opportunities.

VII. Chamber Update. Item 7 on Agenda

Drew Howard gave the chamber update. Wal-Mart is the main underwriter for the Chamber Auction this year and Lake Pointe Medical Center is the Royal Sponsor for the event. The Make a Connection event every Thursday at Jason's Deli is doing well. The Chamber has not appointed a board member yet. There has been interest expressed from a couple of very well suited Chamber representatives. We will have a decision at the next meeting.

VIII. Director's Update. Item 8 on Agenda

Ben White gave the update. The director's report was sent to the board prior to the meeting. Mr. White asked for comments on the report. Mayor Harper asked about the Primo development. There was general discussion regarding a deceleration lane for the project. Staff will be working to resolve the issue. Wing Aero Space has relocated to their new building. Store Décor has passed Planning and Zoning and City Council and is moving forward. There will be a ground breaking for the DART in March. Larry Glick asked about moving the station. Mayor Harper clarified that the developer of Rowlett City Center would like the station to be moved closer to the mixed use development on the waterfront especially if there is a higher education component to the development. McAlister's Deli is open and is doing very good. The trade show booth was set up for the board members to see. The new aerial maps were passed out to the board. On the back of the map is vital information to developers and brokers which includes the master thoroughfare map, PGBT map and the zoning map.

IX. Economic Development Strategic Plan "Rowlett Next" Discussion. Item 9 on Agenda

Staff updated the timeline with the progress made for the year regarding the items suggested in the Strategic Plan. Greg Sims suggested that we dedicate more time at the next meeting regarding this topic.

X. Merritt Road connector discussion. Item 10 on Agenda

Mayor Harper updated the board on the Merritt Road connector with Liberty Grove. The cost for the project is roughly 33 million dollars. We have been given 12 million dollars so far. We have been cleared to use our own designer. We hope to have this done by midsummer. We are missing around 21 million dollars. Council of Governments is asking us to fund 20% and they will fund the rest. We are negotiating with the Council of Governments to get this project funded.

XI. Discuss golf tournament for brokers/developers. Item 11 on Agenda

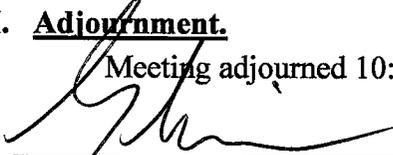
The City of Rowlett's Economic Development will be hosting the 1st annual development Golf Tournament. We need to set up a committee to help with this production. A volunteer committee of Greg Sims, Larry Glick, Todd Gottel and Drew Howard was decided. Ben White and Diane Hayes will also serve on this committee.

XII. 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. Item 12 on Agenda

Items for the next meeting are Strategic Plan Discussion. The next meeting is set for February 26th at 8:30 A.M.

XIII. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned 10:00 A.M.



Greg Sims, Chairman



B. Diane Hayes, Assigned City Staff

4-23-09

Date Approved: