

City of Rowlett

Regular Meeting

Economic Development Advisory Board

Thursday, June 26, 2008

8:30 A.M.

City Hall Conference Room, 4000 Main Street

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order

Greg Sims called to order the **Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board** at **8:34 A.M.** on **June 26, 2008** in **City Hall Conference Room at 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas**. In attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Rushing, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel, Greg Sims, Drew Howard, Ben White, Craig Owens, Larry Glick, Robin Tomberlin and Mary Alice Etheridge.

II. Welcome and Introduction. Item 2 on Agenda

Greg Sims welcomed Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Rushing as the new council appointee to the board.

III. Consider approval of minutes from March 28, 2008. Item 3 on Agenda

Motion was made by Drew Howard to approve the minutes from May 29, 2008 and second by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel. All approved motion carried.

IV. Graffiti Discussion, Q&A and recommendation. Item 4 on Agenda

Police Chief Matt Walling gave the board a power point presentation on graffiti issues in the city. Ben White updated the board members of the recent business owner meetings held at the police station regarding graffiti. Mr. White expressed our gratitude to the police department for the time and effort they have spent on this matter. Chief Walling spoke of an abatement program. Prevention and education, intervention and abatement are four elements of the program. Prevention and education are essential to a successful program. The police department are educating our local schools and offering tagging incentives for leads to apprehension of taggers. Immediate abatement of the graffiti is key to the program. Current abatement is the responsibility of the property owner. There was general discussion regarding the cost of abatements and responsible parties. The police department will be purchasing motion detector cameras to place in problem areas in an effort to partner with business owners to eliminate/reduce the offences. These cameras will be moved from location to location depending upon the need. The cameras will be purchased with seizure funds at no cost to the citizens.

V. The Economic Development Board shall convene into executive session pursuant to §551.087 of the TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE regarding Project Primo. Item 5 on Agenda

Tabled for future agenda.

VI. Discuss and take appropriate action if necessary on the executive session matter. Item 6 on Agenda

None needed.

VII. Garland Independent School District Update. Item 7 on Agenda

Larry Glick spoke of the school district having a roll back election and set the rate in August of 2009 and the election would be after that. A potential date would be October 2009 in an effort to keep it off the same date as the City's potential bond election. The amount would be for 0.13 cents making the rate from \$1.04 to \$1.17 and that would raise approximately \$30 million dollars. Potential State legislation changes could change the decision for GISD's decision of the election. Potential the State may solve the problem.

Efforts are being made to have Garland be a "recognized" school. The "exemplary" districts throughout the State are small districts in size. The goal of being "recognized" was just missed this time. Rowlett High School has a chance at being a "recognized" school and that is very rare. There are other schools in Rowlett that will be "recognized" and that will be positive for Rowlett.

VIII. City Update. Item 8 on Agenda

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel spoke of the Freedom Festival this coming weekend. General update on DART and the grade separation for the crossing at Rowlett Road. Real concern was expressed regarding the crossing at Rowlett Road. The City is accepting bond committee applications. The City is taking applications to help with "The All American City" designation we are submitting for. The City is still working on "Rowlett Days" Main Street activities. It is in the preliminary discussion phase but moving forward. The goal is to kick it off next year in the Spring.

IX. Chamber Update. Item 9 on Agenda

Mary Alice Etheridge spoke of a downtown activity they are working on at the present time. They are looking at July 16, 2008 but that is subject to change. The Chamber is putting together a mini motor cycle rally in front of Big Star Burgers. Some of the Chamber Businesses are partnering in the event.

X. Director's Update . Item 10 on Agenda

Ben White gave a general update to the board. A written report was included in the notebooks for the board members and a complete packet is available online. The director's report is broken down into groups. Business Retention and Expansion, Marketing, Attracting New Business to Rowlett, Commercial/Manufacturing (non Retail) and the last section is Alliances. Larry Glick asked about the Waterfront Entertainment Districts and if we have had any activity or interest. Mr. White explained that we have been talking with brokers regarding the Northshore, Downtown and the Waterfront districts. There are developers interested in all three districts. Greg Sims reiterated the importance of confidentiality of new and potential developments in our community.

XI. Development Process. Item 11 on Agenda

Table to next agenda.

XII. Public Improvement District (PID) Discussion. Item 12 on Agenda

Table to next agenda.

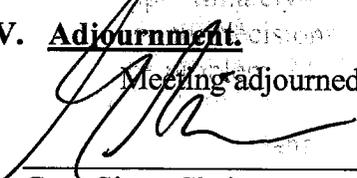
XIII. Members of the Economic Development Advisory Board may request topics for the future agenda meetings. No member of the board or commission may discuss

any of the requested subjects until such matter has been properly placed on a posted agenda.

Special Meeting scheduled for July 3, 2008 for executive session items. DART discussion on the July 3, 2008 meeting. Next regular meeting July 31, 2008. Items on the agenda will be Development Process (looking at screening ordinance) and regular updates. The PID discussion will be moved to the August 2008 regular meeting.

XIV. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 A.M.



Greg Sims, Chairman



B. Diane Hayes, Assigned City Staff

7-28-08
Date Approved: