

City of Rowlett
Economic Development Advisory Board
Thursday, October 23, 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 October 23, 2008 in City Hall Conference Room at 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas.** In attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel, Cindy Rushing, Greg Sims, Drew Howard, Ben White, George Harris, John Spor, Larry Glick, Mary Alice Etheridge and Robin Tomberlin.

II. Welcome and Introduction. Item 2 on Agenda

Greg Sims thanked the board for their service to the City.

III. Administer the Oath of Office and the Statement of Elected/Appointed Officer to the newly appointed members. Item 3 on Agenda

John Spor took the Oath of Office.

IV. Consider approval of minutes from September 25, 2008 and October 14, 2008 meetings. Item 4. On Agenda

Motion to approve the minutes from September 25, 2008 by Todd Gottel and second by Drew Howard. Motion carried. Motion to approve the minutes from October 14, 2008 by Cindy Rushing with a correction adding the word "Special" to the heading and second by John Spor. Motion carried.

V. GISD Update. Item 5 on Agenda

Larry Glick gave the update. GISD recently hosted Leadership Rowlett and gave the group a tour of Garland High School. The day started at 11:00 in the morning and ended with a dinner at the board meeting. Mr. Glick spoke of some school districts considering shorter school days from 180 days to 170. Mr. Glick stated that with other countries increasing school days it would not be wise for us to decrease them. DISD is working with GISD behind the scenes to help with DISD's financial problem. GISD and DISD have similar operating systems. Mr. Glick spoke of a student that was suspended at school for having a fishing knife in his truck. The student thought he had lost the knife a year ago. Mr. Glick commented that he believed the student and the policy of expulsion for this incident should be reviewed. Mr. Glick voted to keep the student in school. Leadership Rowlett witnessed this board meeting.

VI. City Update. Item 6 on Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem, Todd Gottel gave the update. Mr. Gottel spoke of the turnout for the early voting. There is a preliminary schedule for the Main Street events. There will be a holiday parade on November 22 with the help of the Noon Exchange Club and the Chamber of Commerce. Bond Committee is in the first stage of gathering information. The committee is still prioritizing all projects. We did not endorse the Rockwall County Bond. The bond was for engineering of the

extension of State Highway 66 and would not benefit our citizens at this point. The city council has tabled the item and has not voted on it even though the news paper said they had.

VII. Chamber Update. Item 7 on Agenda

Drew Howard gave the chamber update. This is the Texas Chamber Week and the Mayor gave a recognized proclamation to the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce. Taste and Trade is coming up and flyers were passed out to the board members. There will be 14 food vendors and 26 business vendors. Mary Alice Etheridge spoke of the Rowlett Revisited event that will be held November 15th. The businesses in Timberlake Shopping Center, Rowlett Plaza and First Rowlett Center are participating in this special event in the parking lot in front of Timberlake. There will be things for the kids and family to enjoy. Bike Night has been suspended until after winter. The event turned out to be a success and will start up again. Membership luncheon in November will be a county judge Mr. Foster that has done research on Rowlett through the depression. The December luncheon will be held at the Community Centre because RSVP from the High School will be performing. October is when the Chamber board appointee's terms run out. The Chamber has reappointed Greg Sims to the EDAB for a two year term.

VIII. Director's Update. Item 8 on Agenda

Ben White gave the update. A detailed director's report was included in the packet and is available on the website. A hard copy of the report is placed in the EDAB notebooks. Project Primo is held up for discussions from the City Engineer requiring a deceleration lane for the development. We are currently working through that. Project Design has submitted the second set of plans and they are being reviewed by the Planning Department. H&S Manufacturing celebrated their 40th Anniversary 20 years of that has been calling Rowlett home for the business. We are experiencing interest in the Waterfront properties. Staff has met with developers on all strategic districts in the city and response has been positive. Photos were displayed to the board of the draft design of the Trade Show booth. Our new marketing tag line will be "On the Water, On the Move". This is to capture our new transportation opportunities with the PGBT and DART developments.

IX. Discuss past projects as relates to development. Item 9 on Agenda

Mr. John Spor wanted to discuss a project that went all the way through the development process and then was turned down by the City Council. There was general discussion regarding the Planning and Zoning Commission reading the comprehensive plan. The notification letters sent out for this development to the surrounding property owners came back negative. There were other areas in the city that would have better fit the development. Assistant Director of Development Services, Alaina Ray spoke to the board regarding the project. Mrs. Ray expressed that the developer of the property was advised in the very beginning of the likelihood that this project would not pass. The project did not meet zoning or the comprehensive plan. There were issues of the project being across the street from a residential area. The developer insisted on going through the process and we cannot predict how a governing body will vote.

X. Economic Development Strategic Plan Discussion. Item 10 on Agenda

There was brief discussion on this topic. Staff is staying on task working with Planning and Engineering on Planned Developments. We are targeting our

industries and involving the EDAB and Chamber of Commerce as is in the plan. Todd Gottel asked the board to inform staff if they discover businesses in trouble or have leads for new businesses in the city.

XI. 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

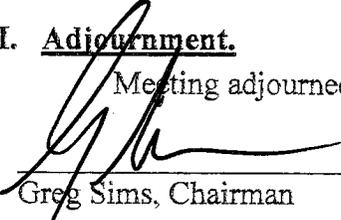
Review timeline at December 2008 meeting. Appoint new Chair and Vice-Chair for the board. Next meeting set for November 20th, 2008.

XII. Public Announcements. 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 regards to the announcements.

November 8th, 2008 is the Artist Around Texas Tour.

XIII. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.



Greg Sims, Chairman



B. Diane Hayes, Assigned City Staff

12-18-08

Date Approved: