

**City of Rowlett**  
**Economic Development Advisory Board**  
**Thursday, December 18, 2008**  
**12:00 P.M.**  
*Kyoto's 9900 Lakeview Parkway, Rowlett, TX 75088*

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to order**

Greg Sims called to order the Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board at 12:05 P.M. on December 18, 2008 at Kyoto's 9900 Lakeview Parkway, Rowlett, Texas. In attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel, Cindy Rushing, Greg Sims, Drew Howard, Ben White, John Spor, Larry Glick, Mary Alice Etheridge, Robin Tomberlin, Ben White and Diane Hayes.

**II. Welcome and Introduction. Item 2 on Agenda**

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

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

Motion to approve the minutes from October 23, 2008 by Robin Tomberlin and second by Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel. Motion carried.

**IV. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for the Economic Development Advisory Board. Item 4 on Agenda**

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem, Todd Gottel to nominate Greg Sims for the position of Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Board for the year 2009. Motion seconded by Drew Howard with all in favor. Motion carried. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem, Todd Gottel to nominate Dr. John Harper, Mayor of Rowlett the position of Vice Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Board for the year of 2009. Motion seconded by Robin Tomberlin with all in favor. Motion carried.

**V. GISD Update. Item 5 on Agenda**

Larry Glick gave the update about the controversial high school play RENT. General discussion around the board seemed to conclude that the play is an art form even if you do not agree with the play content it should be cancelled. The play had been modified for suitable high school presentation. The play was ultimately cancelled after much media coverage. Mr. Glick was concerned that community pressure was allowed, right or wrong, to influence a decision.

**VI. City Update. Item 6 on Agenda**

Mayor Pro Tem, Todd Gottel gave the update. There will be a public hearing regarding a potential smoking ban for the City of Rowlett. Public Information Office and the Chamber of Commerce are going to assist with the notification of the businesses that this will have a direct affect on. Mr. Gottel thanked everyone for their help on the parade. The parade was a success. The new City Manager Lynda Humble will start on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The state of the city address will also be January 20<sup>th</sup>. The Coyle house will be moved in the beginning of January. The cost to move the house is substantial. We are exploring as a city the possible uses

**VII. Chamber Update. Item 7 on Agenda**

Drew Howard gave the chamber update. The Chamber will be appointing a new EDAB member at the next board meeting. The Chamber is currently working on the annual auction and the event will be held at Southfork this year. The Chamber hired a registered auctioneer this year. The event will be held March 21<sup>st</sup>. There is a new networking event every Thursday at 8:00 a.m. at Jason's Deli.

**VIII. Director's Update. Item 8 on Agenda**

Ben White gave the update. The month of December is catch up for Economic Development. We have asked for advisory board members to open up their rolodex and provide the Economic Development Department with contacts. Drew Howard sent our department with a lead that could possible locate in our city and we are very thankful for that. Larry Glick also sent a contact for a land owner of a prime corner and staff has met with him. Thank you to both Larry Glick and Drew Howard for your contacts. In the past year there has been 535 jobs created in Rowlett. Sales tax numbers are up from the previous year. McAlister's Deli will open up in January. Diane Hayes gave the update on the new marketing materials. There is a new Economic Development Newsletter that will be included in the January utility bills. We will be inserting the Newsletter into the utility bills quarterly. All of our marketing materials going forward will have a matching theme. We are using a new tag line for marketing "On the Water, On the Move" will be printed on all the materials going forward.

**IX. Economic Development Strategic Plan Discussion. Item 10 on Agenda**

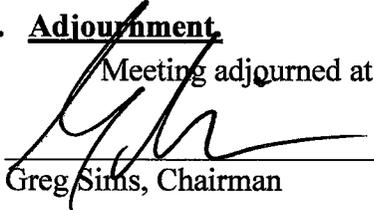
There was a brief discussion on the topic and ways to engage the advisory board. Greg Sims wanted to know where we are at with hosting the golf tournament for brokers and developers. Ben White explained that we had to budget for the event and we do plan on hosting the event with assistance from the Chamber and this board. Drew Howard asked about the retail analysis. The board agreed that it was too expensive and not needed at this time. We will revisit this item at a later date.

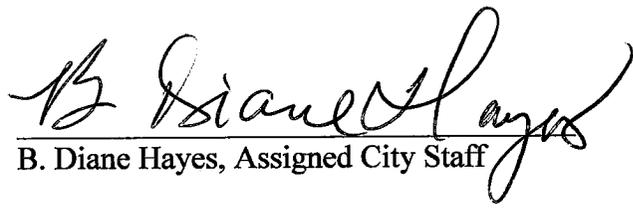
**X. Members of the board may request topics for future agenda meetings. No member of the board or commission may discuss any of the requested subjects until such matter has been properly placed on a posted agenda. Item 12 on Agenda**

The board would like to discuss the Merritt Road connector and the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

**XI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

  
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Greg Sims, Chairman

  
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B. Diane Hayes, Assigned City Staff

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Date Approved: