

City of Rowlett
Economic Development Advisory Board

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

9:00 A.M.

Development Services Conference Room 3901 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas 75088

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Doug Phillips called the Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:05 am on August 6, 2014 in the Development Services Conference Room at 3901 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas. In attendance: Doug Phillips, Tammy Dana-Bashian, Drew Howard, Diane Lemmons, Brian Funderburk, Larry Glick, Kevin Lawson, Staci Thomas, Debby Bobbitt, Jim Grabenhorst, Aaron Pierce, and Lola Isom.

2. CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 15, 2014 MEETING:

A motion was made by Tammy Dana-Bashian and seconded by Drew Howard to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2014 meeting. Motion carried.

Jim Grabenhorst introduced Aaron Pierce, Economic Development Intern, and gave an update on the status of the Economic Development Specialist position in his department.

Mr. Grabenhorst presented the third quarter "By the Numbers" report and the retail leasing report.

He stated that April/May 2015 is still the projected date to begin with the Village of Rowlett project. Mr. Grabenhorst expects the plans to be submitted to Development Services by January of 2015. He stated that the City is currently working on a transition plan for the Rowlett Library. He expressed that there had been a lot of interest in Downtown ever since the Village of Rowlett project was announced.

He stated that the former Big Star space was purchased and the concept will possibly be a "Tex-Mex" themed restaurant. Mr. Grabenhorst stated that Brendal's Bakery had expressed some interest in moving to the downtown area.

He mentioned that 3840 Main LLC (Zanata's) closed on their property and they have a year to build/open the brewhouse/restaurant concept.

He presented the Homestead at Liberty Grove aerial video and stated that the Communication Department will track the progress of the project throughout its duration.

There was discussion amongst the Board regarding the Blacklands Corridor study and the connection to Community Park.

3. RECEIVE CHAMBER UPDATE

Diane Lemmons provided the Chamber of Commerce update. She announced that the breakfast to Meet the Candidates would be at 7:30 p.m. at the Main Street Event Center on August 29, 2014 and asked that attendees RSVP now. She stated that Rowlett is hosting the Banker's Roundtable Event on August 21, 2014. Ms. Lemmons announced that on July 4, 2014, the 5K attendance increased by 100 runners and there was a lot of positive feedback. She mentioned that the Chamber was considering a winter 5K event due to the positive response of the 4th of July run. Ms. Lemmons announced that there would be an economic development collaboration in Richardson hosted by Representative Angie Chen-Button. She said that the Rowlett Legislative Days are coming up in February 2015. She said that the 24th Leadership Rowlett class is accepting applications on their website. Lastly, she mentioned that October 23, 2014 is the Taste and Trade event at the Rowlett High School.

4. RECEIVE GISD UPDATE

Larry Glick provided the GISD update. He stated that they are preparing for the bond election. He announced that the initial ballot for the proposed bond election revealed that 55% were in favor, 31% were not in favor, and 14% were unsure.

There was discussion amongst the Board regarding the possibility of a natatorium, a career/technology school, sports turf, band hall, choir expansions, secure vestibules, and the tax implication.

5. DISCUSSION WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON COOPERATION AGREEMENT BUSINESS PLAN

Jim Grabenhorst summarized the goals of the Strategic Partnership Agreement. He stated that the Economic Development Advisory Board will act as the oversight for the plan. He said that business retention is the focus as well as sustaining the relationship between the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Rowlett.

Mr. Grabenhorst explained that conducting in-person meetings with local business is a vital process. He said that the "12 at 12" event would be returning. He mentioned that the partnership agreement is a three-year term.

There was discussion amongst the Board regarding providing updates to the plan to City Council on a bi-annual basis.

6. UPDATE ON PRIOR DISCUSSION ON DOWNTOWN ENTRANCE MONUMENT

Mr. Grabenhorst explained that the budget for the Downtown entrance monument is \$100,000. He stated that this initiative has been put temporarily on hold in order to allow for the Village of Rowlett plan to develop so that there is synergy in the design of the entrance monument and the Village of Rowlett plan. Once the City receives the formal submittal of the Village of Rowlett (giving the ability to better visualize the development concept), the Board will then begin to focus on developing a plan and making a recommendation to City Council. .

Board Member Dana-Bashian stated that an idea had been brought up by the Arts and Humanities Commission to have rotating sculptures from year to year. She said that this would help bring personality to the City.

Board Member Staci Thomas left the meeting.

7. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

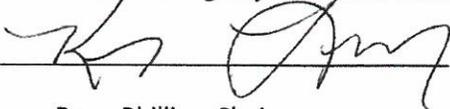
Diane Lemmons announced the "Kids Learning How to Be CEO's" (Shark Tank) event.

8. TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDA MEETINGS

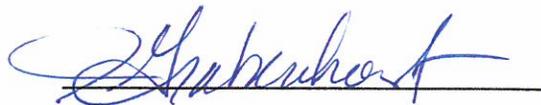
There was discussion amongst the Board regarding the Chamber foundation funding and the golf course.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 A.M.



Doug Phillips, Chairman



Jim Grabenhorst, Assigned City Staff

11-21-14

Date Approved