

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
June 8, 2015
MEETING MINUTES

Chair Greg Welch called the meeting to order at 5:35pm. Commissioners present were Tom McGrew, Wandaleen Thomas, and Darlene Cruz. xOfficio Kevin Daniels attended to meet fellow board members and learn of EDA mission focus areas. Additional attendees included Andrew Ward Best and Brightest Intern and Kimberly Bailey Economic Development Manager (EDM).

Chair Welch asked for approval of the May 11, 2015 minutes. McGrew moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Thomas, passed unanimously by the Board.

Next, Chair Welch shared with the board a discussion which had taken place with EDM Bailey with respect to keeping agendas and meetings to a 1.0/ 1.5 hour max duration. This added measure was to respect board members' personal time dedicated to EDC after-hours meetings.

UPDATES discussed by the Commission:

EDM Bailey quickly summarized the EOM March Activity Report and asked if the board had any questions on items listed or further inquiries on any specific topic referenced. There were no item requests by the Board on the report provided.

EDM Bailey provided a recap of the activity during the ICSC retail tradeshow and conference in Las Vegas in May. The retail industry is showing stronger positive momentum for expansion, but it does still exist within specific industry segments and U.S. markets. Bailey had returned with hotelier and regional site selector contacts for continual follow up activity.

Within the EDC packet materials, there was a sample of the Olde Town materials to be shared during the two June public meetings scheduled. The materials were a basis for collaborative discussion focused on the following aspects: Public Works projects, Pedestrian Corridor project, Proposed Enterprise Zone, New Historic Grant Opportunity, Beautification Pilot Program, and the formation of an Olde Town Steering Committee.

A re-analysis of the EDA Grant process was shared by EDM Bailey. In May, an internal city staff meeting was held with EDA regional representative Korbas to discuss two potential infrastructure projects that could support attracting new business development activity/investment. However, the EDA representative advice was neither of these projects would gain traction of support with State EDA authority. The EDA meeting was a very valuable information session for going forward with identifying projects that could qualify and gained a valuable contact relation with EDA.

NEW BUSINESS topics discussed by the Commission:

EDM Bailey shared a highlight of key meetings taking place during the month of June, which includes:

- OEDIT Regional 4 Blueprint planning session
- 2015 Colorado Retail Summit
- Small Business Week Luncheon with Fountain businesses nominees
- Pueblo CDOT for Gateway Improvement Project
- CS Regional Business Alliance with City of Fountain and EDC Chair

DISCUSSION items mentioned by the Commission

Chair Welch asked about the status of the Ventana housing development in Olde Town. EDM Bailey mentioned the project is moving forward with earthwork now underway. The development is to be comprised of approximately 300 homes, a mix of single family and multi-family, in addition to a community park space fronting Old Pueblo road and an inline of light-industrial along RMB Court.

xOfficio Daniels inquired about YMCA and a new recreation center. EDM Bailey advised there have been continual discussion take place with YMCA, City, Peak Vista, and School District on a collaborative Rec Center development. In fact, the Ventana development offered a consideration to house the YMCA facility within its new Community Center building.

Chair Welch asked about further business topics. Cruz mentioned community feedback inquiry on the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Ohio and Main. EDM Bailey mentioned that design model has been considered, however the intersection's space constraints do now allow such a transit footprint due to the size of vehicles that access that intersection daily.

No further topics were approached by the board. Therefore, McGrew moved to adjourn, seconded by Cruz, passed unanimously at 6:42pm.


Kimberly Bailey, Secretary

7-14-15
Date