

**CITY OF DELTONA, FLORIDA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 9, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the Deltona Economic Development Advisory Board was held on Monday, Monday, March, 9, 2009 at the City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 2345 Providence Boulevard, Deltona, Florida.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman, Nick Conte, Jr.

2. ROLL CALL:

Karl Brown	Voting Member	Present
Nick Conte, Jr.	Voting Member	Present
Robert Desmond	Voting Member	Present
Susie M. Eutsey	Voting Member	Present
Richard Provini	Voting Member	Present
Frank Rodriguez	Voting Member	Not Present
Dennis Starke	Voting Member	Not Present
Patrice Murphy	Business Dev/Grant Manager	Present
Maria Perez-Conde	Recording Secretary	Present

3. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Chairman, Nick Conte, Jr. determined there was a quorum present.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Economic Development Advisory Board Meeting – February 9, 2009

Motion by Nick Conte, Jr., seconded by Susie Eutsey to adopt the minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Board Meeting of February 9, 2009.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Nick Conte, Chairman stated that the absentee process needs to be reviewed. Patrice Murphy stated that she looked into it and three unexcused consecutive absences are not allowed.

Nick Conte started with new business and turned it over to Patrice Murphy. Patrice showed the board the web pages she had worked on. On the first page she had location,

miles, etc. On the second page she has listed the top five reasons Deltona is right for business:

1. Economic Growth
2. Strategic Regional Growth
3. Investment Prospects
4. Educated, Young Diverse Workforce
5. Housing Diversity

Patrice stated that she did not want to over word the pages. Wants to make sure everyone is on the same page and okay with the verbiage. Patrice mentioned that a lot of people do not realize the economic engine that we have here not only in population but almost 50% of our population earns from \$35,000- \$75,000. Recent site selection assistance on the current web page it is very difficult to maintain, especially with so many businesses going up for sale, up for lease, etc... Patrice stated that it would be better if she could narrow it down where they can contact her if they are looking for a certain type of parcel and then do the search from there. Robert Desmond agreed that it was very important that the information advertised on this website is correct, because it is a direct reflection on the board.

Nick Conte suggested that the schools, colleges in the area be included on the economic web page. If you put UCF on the page it will pop out.

Robert Desmond suggested listing what was going on with SunRail and to mention the city's crime rate (which is very low compare to other municipalities).Patrice stated that the perception out there is that we don't. She will look into comparing other cities crime rates to ours.

Nick Conte asked the board what they thought about the mayor having a welcome message on the website. Robert Desmond thought it was a good idea. Susie Eutsey mentioned that when she travels to other locations she always sees "Welcome to the Area" messages from the mayor.

Robert Desmond asked whether taxes should be mentioned. Patrice stated that she will keep the link on the local business tax, but overall taxes in Deltona are very low and she can put that in under housing information. She believes it's the lowest in the county per unit and that our mileage is higher than Debary but we pay less taxes in Deltona.

Patrice mentioned that she finally got a hold of Mr. Rodriguez from CB Richard Ellis who is now representing Chick-Fil-A in this area. Spoke to him about coming to Deltona. The response was that Deltona was not one of the markets they were looking into at this time. Patrice asked if he knew anything about Deltona and his response was not really. Patrice mentioned to him that Deltona has 86,000 residents, the median income, the median age and that we have very few choices in fast food. She gave him something to think about.

Nick Conte congratulated Patrice on a great start on the economic web page. Patrice stated that she will start e-mailing the information out to the board so they can have a chance to review it and comment at the next board meeting.

Patrice mentioned that the next Quarterly Report is due in May.

Patrice asked Nick Conte if they were going to talk about the sun rail. As far as she knew it was moving forward. Nick responded that Mica's office is fully on board and pushing it but the interesting thing was that DeBary which is one of the hub spots is not interested in having it. In fact if their commission voted tonight it would vote to not extend themselves to be a part of the sun rail. Mica's office is serious about the idea that if DeBary doesn't want it then they'll move it to Deltona. They'll put a stop in the Activity Center. Problem is there is no natural rail that comes in that direction. Patrice stated that she's had a conversation with Chris Bowley (Director, Planning and Development Services) and that have talked about getting with Votran and having a park and ride here in Deltona where you can park your car here and catch a multi mobile system out to DeBary and catch a train.

Nick Conte suggests that maybe they could get someone from sun rail to come by and talk to the board. Patrice stated that she had a contact. She had some information on the lady that spoke at the meeting back in January.

Karl Brown wanted to know where the proposed stops will be. Patrice responded that the stops were DeBary, Longwood, Winter Park, Downtown Orlando and other locations.

Nick Conte stated that the message we send as a board and the city is that by saying "yes" we support Sun Rail. To Mica and the congress people and the stimulus people will mean perhaps some of this stuff we're just fantasizing about will happen. Patrice Murphy stated that she's been in conversations with Frank DeMarsh (Activity Center) property owner where the Epic Theater is going and he is still planning on going further at a smaller scale. The problem is infrastructure and the way they had proposed realigning Normandy and Graves Ave into Howland Blvd. According to Chris Bowley, Planning and Zoning Director he thinks there is an easier way to do this that will be cost effective.

Nick Conte disclosed to the board that he had met with the mayor and they had talked about economic development, the SunRail, and as a citizen mentioned to the mayor that anything that happens in city hall and makes it to the media is not good for economic development.

Robert Desmond wanted to know how the board can partner with the Deltona Chamber.

Maria Perez Conde and Patrice Murphy will arrange a Meet n Greet for either May or June with Deltona Chamber.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

8. MEMBER COMMENTS

Richard Provini statement was he wanted something to open, bring new business.

Robert Desmond appreciated all the education he is getting since he is relatively new.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairman, Nick Conte called for motion to adjourn, seconded by Richard Provini. Motion carried by unanimous decision. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2009.

Nick Conte, Jr., CHAIRMAN

Maria Perez-Conde, RECORDING SECRETARY