

City of Rowlett

Regular Meeting

Economic Development Advisory Board

Thursday, January 24, 2008

8:00 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 8:05 A.M. on January 24, 2008 in City Hall Conference Room at 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas.

II. Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Sims commented on the Mayor's State of the City Address. Mr. Sims explained the new items on the agenda that are put in place to allow the different organizations that make up the board the opportunity to give updates so the board will know what is going on in each organization. In the future there will be calendars of events from each entity..

III. Consider approving minutes of the December 13, 2007 meeting. Item 3 on Agenda

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2007 meeting by Mr. Buddy Wall and second by John Spor. Motion carried.

IV. Directors Update. Item 5 on Agenda

Ms. Keri Samford gave an update on the new notebooks for the members to use as reference guides during the meetings. Ms. Samford gave an update on the Aldi store to locate in the vacant Brookshire's building. Mr. Larry Glick questioned about the parking lot at that location. Ms. Samford explained that they will have to bring the site up to the standards in place for new / redevelopment. Ms. Samford spoke of the Zaxby's to locate on Lakeview Parkway in the old used car lot. The full directors update is included in the EDAB notebooks.

V. City Update. Item 4 on Agenda

Mayor John Harper gave a update. Mayor Harper commented that the City of Rowlett is a member of the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Harper has made contact with a CEO of a major corporation who will be taking a look at our North Shore District. Mayor Harper attended a DART meeting and talked with a Senator who is assisting Rowlett. Mayor Harper stated at the meeting there was no mention of delay with the station for Rowlett. DART staff will send out a RFQ in the next 30 days for a single construction company to design and build and maintain the station for the next 30 years. They are looking at different layouts for the tracks to get that done. Rowlett Road Phase I will be done in two or three months. Businesses will get some relief form the ongoing construction. Mayor Harper will call for a review of the City Charter and it will be on the November ballot with some amendments. Mayor Harper is going to propose a 2009 bond election of 75-100 million. March 11 is a joint meeting with the EDAB and City Council and January 29 is the joint meeting with the Planning

VI. Chamber Update. Item 6 on Agenda

Drew Howard gave a Chamber Update on the upcoming meetings and events. The monthly Biz N Perks meeting and the Auction and Casino night. The annual awards banquet is coming up and the monthly small business luncheon held at Kyoto's. Drew Howard commented that the Chamber would be able to assist with the timeline of the ED Strategic Plan.

VII. Garland Independent School District Update. Item 7 on Agenda

Larry Glick gave the GISD update. Mr. Glick stated he has been learning the process for 7000 employees and 60 thousand students. GISD is the pioneer with handheld devices in the class room. Teachers have monitors and ask a question and the students punch the answer into the handheld device and the teacher can see instantly who got the correct answer. The school district has added another year of math and science for freshman students. There will be no new school construction and maybe never for the new High School by Castle Road.

VIII. Tatianos Incentive Application. Item 8 on Agenda

Tatianos incentive application was reviewed by the board members. The application requested a relief of impact fees and waiver / credit of sales tax for the first three years. Twenty five percent for year one, forty percent for year two and fifty percent for year three. Mayor John Harper stated that each incentive application stands on their own. Mayor Harper suggested we rebate future sales tax only and not current sales tax. Greg Howard commented the thought the restaurant would be an outstanding addition to Rowlett. Larry Glick compared this development to the success of the Luigi's in Rockwall. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel made a motion the recommend the approval of the incentive package to the City Council. Drew Howard second the motion with all in favor. Motion carried.

IX. Discuss Economic Development Timeline. Item 9 on Agenda

Keri Samford went over the timeline for the Strategic Plan item by item. Some suggestions for changes were made. Final report with changes will be in the notebooks. Mayor Harper met with Texas A&M and they are visiting with consultants and the Dean is supporting a facility in Rowlett. They are considering moving the Mesquite center to the North Shore.

X. Discussion on North Texas Tollway Authority, President George Bush Turnpike and Specialized Districts. Item 10 on Agenda

Buddy Wall expressed concern that the Tollway be depressed so as to not divide the City with a cement wall. Discussion on the time frame for the completion of the Tollway. John Spor expressed concern about the construction and the affect it will have on businesses.

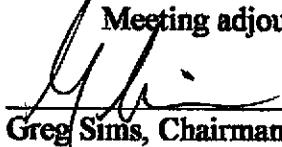
XI. Members of the Economic Development Advisory Board may request topics for the future agenda meetings. No member of the board or commission may discuss any of the requested subjects until such matter has been properly placed on a posted agenda.

Drew Howard would like to discuss marketing materials. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel would like to discuss Economic Development public relations. Greg Sims would like to discuss a quarterly Economic Development luncheon. Larry Glick would like to discuss the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) at the next meeting.

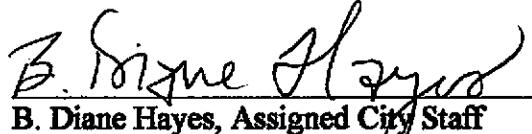
The next meeting is set for February 21st

XII. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05.



Greg Sims, Chairman



B. Diane Hayes, Assigned City Staff

Date Approved: