

**City of Rowlett**  
Regular Meeting  
**Economic Development Advisory Board**  
Thursday, May 29, 2008  
8:30 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 8:30 A.M. on **April 24, 2008** in **City Hall Conference Room at 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas**. In attendance: Mayor John Harper, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel, Greg Sims, Drew Howard, Ben White, John Spor, Larry Glick, Robin Tomberlin and Mary Alice Etheridge.

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

Greg Sims welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**III. Consider approval of minutes from March 28, 2008. Item 3 on Agenda**

Motion was made by John Spor to approve the minutes from April 24, 2008 and second by Drew Howard. All approved motion carried.

**IV. GISD Update. Item 4 on Agenda**

Larry Glick stated that Memorial Prep will close. Mr. Glick exclaimed that he believes it will be a mistake and in time he believes the school could possibly reopen. Graduation starts tonight for Rowlett. Graduation will happen for the next 3 days. The Events Center in Garland will be hosting 19 graduations. Mr. Glick spoke of the salaries for teachers and GISD's task to remain competitive to retain teachers. There was general discussion regarding the perception of GISD and talk of options and/or considerations of the name Garland Rowlett Sachse (GRS). Drew Howard suggested we use the statistics for GISD's achievements and specialized programs in our marketing materials to help change the perception.

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

Mayor John Harper spoke of City Manager Craig Owens's resignation. Mr. Owens accepted a position as City Manager for the City of Clayton Missouri. Mr. Owens will be moving close to both sets of grand parents for his children. Mayor Harper exclaimed how grateful he is to Mr. Owens for all of his hard work and systems he has contributed to Rowlett. Those systems will remain in place. There will be a special session of the City Council on Monday to appoint an interim City Manager. We will be putting together a transition plan and discuss the plan for doing a search for a replacement.

Regarding the PGBT, the Federal Government requires an environmental impact study. This will push the contracts for construction about 4 to 6 weeks. Regarding DART, the budget has been approved; the double tracks have been approved. What is still under discussion are the elevated tracks across Rowlett Road. Rowlett Road is a problem for some of our businesses and we will be more

careful with future contracts for road construction to include some type of incentive program.

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

Drew Howard thanked everyone that attended the annual awards banquet. Mary Bell with Inwood Bank will be the new Chair for the Chamber and Drew Howard will remain one of the Chamber representatives for the Economic Development Advisory Board. The other two appointments have two year terms will be up every other year in October. June 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Biz n Perks with Dr. James Fowler. June 11<sup>th</sup> is the partnership luncheon with the City of Rowlett at the Community Centre. July 9<sup>th</sup> Tom Stellman will present the Rowlett Next plan to the Chamber members at the monthly luncheon.

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

Ben White gave an update on current developments in Rowlett. There were 5 certificates of occupancy that created 54 new jobs in Rowlett. There is a pre-submittal meeting for a restaurant/retail development at the corner of the future PGBT and Hwy 66. A detailed update is included in the advisory board books. Mr. White gave an update on the ICSC trade show. The event was very productive for Rowlett. Developers spoke of new developments being on hold for 12 to 24 months, however, that is not necessarily true for Rowlett. The timing of PGBT and new development is important to developers. Mayor Harper extended his assistance along with this board to attract and pursue new development. Mayor Harper would like for the Economic Development department to consider him and the board as a resource. The Economic Development staff along with members of the Rowlett Police department, City Engineers and Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel met with the Highpoint Industrial business owners regarding graffiti to the buildings and retaining wall in the park. It was a very productive meeting that will be held once a month at first and then every quarter. We are looking to partner with the local business owners in the park to work together to rectify their concerns regarding vandalism and any other issues they may have. Mary Alice Etheridge offered a Chamber presence for future meetings. The Super One is going up for sealed bid auction June 20<sup>th</sup>.

**VIII. Discuss Strategic Plan Timeline. Item 8 on Agenda**

There was general discussion on the time frame for the strategic plan. We are actively pursuing the Higher Education opportunities. We are on track with the plan. Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel stated we should be good stewards of our available land.

**IX. The Economic Development Advisory Board shall convene into executive session pursuant to §551.087 of THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE regarding Project Primo Item 9 on Agenda**

**X. Discuss and take appropriate action if necessary on the executive session matter. Item 10 on Agenda**

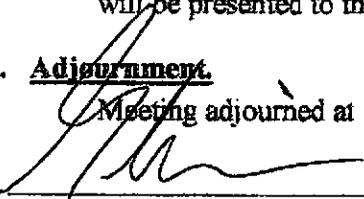
The business is not ready to go before the board. There are some issues with the site and some items still need to be ironed out. Staff is continually working with the owner to assist in this process. Mayor Harper reiterated the importance that businesses going through this process need to contact city staff and not the Mayor or Council with regard to these projects.

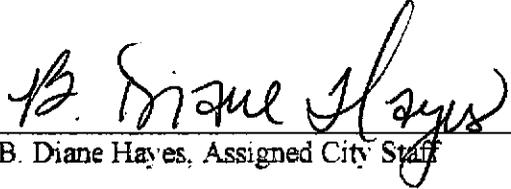
**XI. Members of the Economic Development Advisory Board may request topics for the future agenda meetings. No member of the board or commission may discuss any of the requested subjects until such matter has been properly placed on a posted agenda.**

Next meeting set for June 26, 2008. Public Improvement Districts (PID) power point and the TIF Board minutes to be sent to the EDAB prior to the next meeting. The TIF Board update will be a part of the City Update on the next agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottle will give an update on proposed Main Street activities in the City Update. Item for PID discussion. Item for Development Review Process. Project Primo will be on the next agenda. Electronic packets will be sent to the board prior to the meeting and hard copies will be presented to the members of the board during the meeting.

**XII. Adjournment.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

  
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Greg Sims, Chairman

  
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B. Diane Hayes, Assigned City Staff

6-26-08  
Date Approved: