

# **City of Rowlett**

Special Meeting

## **Economic Development Advisory Board**

**Thursday, August 28, 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 **8:34 A.M. on July 31, 2008** in **City Hall Conference Room at 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas**. In attendance: Councilmember Cindy Rushing, Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel, Greg Sims, Drew Howard, Ben White, George Harris, Robin Tomberlin, John Spor, Larry Glick and Mary Alice Etheridge.

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

Greg Sims welcomed the Advisory Board to the meeting. No special introductions needed at this meeting.

### **III. Consider approval of minutes from July 31, 2008. Item 3 on Agenda**

Councilmember Cindy Rushing motioned to approve the minutes from July 31, 2008. Drew Howard seconded the motion with all in favor. Motion carried.

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

Larry Glick commented on the ratings for the school district. Mr. Glick stated we missed a rating of recognized by an estimated 20 students out of 60,000. Rowlett is a recognized High School. Coyle was acceptable and Schrade was recognized, Rowlett Elementary was recognized, Back was recognized, Herfurth was acceptable, Keely was exemplary, Stephens was recognized, Dorsey was recognized, Pearson exemplary and Liberty Grove recognized. Rowlett schools would be recognized as a mini district.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Todd Gottel spoke of the search for a new City Manager and we are receiving applications and resumes will be reviewed on Tuesday. The bond committee will have the second round of meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. We are in stage one of the process. NTTA ground breaking was held last week and was very successful. We are in the process of working on the Main Street events. The budget will be voted on September 16 and we are in good shape this year. Mr. Greg Sims suggested we keep our eyes on the mortgages and home values.

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

Mr. Drew Howard gave the chamber update. Upcoming events include the following: September 10<sup>th</sup> is the membership luncheon and the guest speaker is the superintendant from the school district. Bike Night downtown September 10<sup>th</sup> will be the last one. September 12<sup>th</sup> small business luncheon at Kyoto's and September 23 is the Golf Tournament. October 17<sup>th</sup> Friday Night Live at Kyoto's and October 28<sup>th</sup> is Rowlett Taste and Trade at Rowlett High School. Leadership class will be kicked off soon. The annual auction and casino night this year will

be March 21<sup>st</sup> at South Fork Ranch for a change of venue. H&S Manufacturing is have their 40<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary October 1, 2008.

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

Mr. Ben White gave the update. A detailed report was included in the packet prior to the meeting. We met with owner of local business to assist with expansion of his manufacturing facility in Rowlett. The business would have 30 new employees locate in the new facility. Project Design is a company that has been in Rowlett since the 70's and needs to build another building. The board had general discussion on the need to have project names. Mr. Drew Howard expressed his concern for not knowing the companies names vs. the project names and the ability of the board to help without knowing more information. Mr. White explained that projects are to be kept confidential to protect the business owner and are at the request of the business owner.

**VIII. Discuss EDAB participation in prospect activities. Item 8 on Agenda**

Mr. Ben White spoke of setting up with a sub-committee to have the board members participate with retention and attraction of business. Possible teams would be retail, manufacturing and office/medical. Three members of the board have met with local owners looking to expand their business already. Mr. White spoke of the structure of our board. We are very open to find ways to get everyone involved. Mr. Sims stated if anyone on the board has time please offer your time to staff to help with business visits.

**IX. Screening Walls. Item 9 on Agenda**

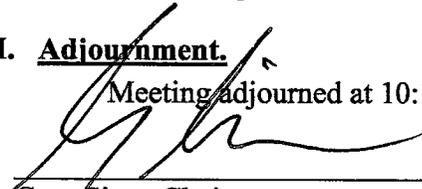
Mrs. Cindy Rushing asked the board if we should look at the city and see what type of screening walls separate the residential areas from the commercial areas. Mrs. Rushing asked if we should suggest that the code be looked at for certain areas within our city so developers will know upfront special requirements for screening walls are in place for commercial developments backing up to residential areas. The question is do we require a living screen or masonry wall in certain areas of the city? Mr. Howard stated it should be commensurate with what is on either side of it.

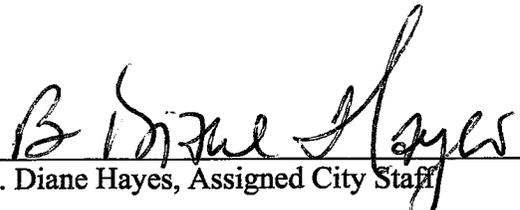
**X. Members of the Economic Development Advisory Board may request topics for the future agenda meetings. No member of the board or commission may discuss any of the requested subjects until such matter has been properly placed on a posted agenda.**

The next meeting is set for September 25, 2008. Items for discussion are Signage and Strategic Plan.

**XI. Adjournment.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Sims, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
B. Diane Hayes, Assigned City Staff

9-25-08  
Date Approved: