

City of Rowlett

Economic Development Advisory Board

Thursday, January 28, 2010

8:45 A.M.

City Hall Conference Room, 4000 Main Street Rowlett, TX 75088

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order

Mayor John Harper called to order the Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board at 8:45 A.M. on January 28, 2010 at the City Hall Conference Room, 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas. In attendance: Drew Howard, Larry Glick, Mark Garcia, Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem Todd Gottel, John Spor, Dr. James Fowler, Lisa Ferrell, Ben White, Erin Jones and Diane Lemmons.

II. Welcome and Introduction. Item 2 on Agenda

Mayor Harper welcomed everyone to the meeting.

III. Consider approval of minutes from November 19, 2009 meeting. Item 3. on Agenda

Motion made to approve the minutes from November 19, 2009 meeting as is. The motion was second by Drew Howard with all in favor. Motion carried.

IV. GISD Update. Item 4 on Agenda

Mr. Larry Glick gave the update for the GISD. Dr Culwell has been appointed to the School Finance Committee for the State of Texas. There was a general discussion on emphasis on college and trade programs for all students. GRS-TV (Garland, Rowlett and Sachse) uses the same software and cameras used in major TV studios. There was a general discussion on four by four requirements for students.

V. City Update. Item 5 on Agenda

Mayor Harper gave the update. Mayor Harper delivered his State of the City address at the City Council meeting on January 19, 2010. Mr. Larry Glick asked about the funding for the bridge and TxDOT. Mayor Harper responded that TxDOT is under a magnifying glass. TxDOT is in trouble financially. Mr. Larry Glick asked about the potential bond election in 2011. Mayor Harper commented that it will be no sooner than 2011 and more likely 2012.

VI. Chamber Update. Item 6 on Agenda

Lisa Ferrell gave the Chamber update. The first 12 at 12 will take place today with 8 local businesses RSVP. At this program Mayor John Harper and a City Council member along with city staff representation including Mr. Ben White will be present to answer any questions or comments from the local businesses. This will allow businesses to have one on one with decision makers in Rowlett. The first draft of the Shop Rowlett card has been approved. There are 40 businesses participating so far. New website will also function as a database.

VII. Director's Update. Item 7 on Agenda

Ben White gave the update. A director's report was included in the advisory board packet prior to the meeting. Economic Development has established a

strong relationship with Trammell Crow Company. A meeting was set up between Trammell Crow and Lake Pointe Medical Center to build a relationship as the hospital will need to expand in the future. There was a general discussion regarding senior housing. Mr. Larry Glick commented on restrictions that could potentially hold up the project. Mr. Glick was speaking from past experiences. All agreed that some of the restrictions have changed.

VIII. Economic Development Advisory Board Forums Discussion. Item 8 on Agenda

Ben White gave the update. The event will be February 11, 2010 with the guest speaker Dr. Bernard Weinstein of the Cox School of Business. We have around 60 RSVP for the event including Senator Bob Deuell. This is the first of two major events to be hosted by the Economic Development department. There will be Rowlett portfolio's for each guest in attendance.

IX. Mentoring Discussion. Item 9 on Agenda

Ben White spoke of the initiative. This will be a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. Meetings have taken place with the Economic Development Director and the Chamber President. A committee will be formed to carry out this program.

X. Temporary Signage. Item 10 on Agenda

Erin Jones, Planning Manager for the City of Rowlett updated the board on the temporary signage ordinance. Rowlett is currently looking to amend the ordinance to be less stringent with regard to businesses in construction zones. This will be necessary for those businesses that are not visible or traffic patterns have to take alternate routes due to construction of our new toll road and other projects.

XI. Business Incubators Discussion. Item 11 on Agenda

There was a general discussion on office sharing and some other ideas for incubators. Articles were passed out to demonstrate the success other cities have had with incubator programs. Forth Worth has a program we could emulate and/or learn from.

XII. Shop Rowlett Now Discussion. Item 12 on Agenda

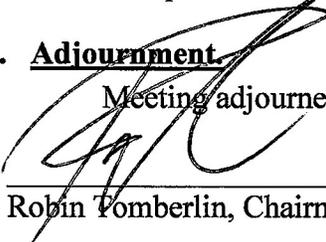
Discussion regarding this item took place during the Chamber Update item 6 on this Agenda.

XIII. Members of the board may request topics for 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. Item 13 on Agenda

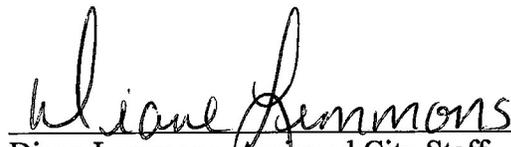
A request was to discuss entertainment venues in Rowlett.

XIV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 10:20 A.M.



Robin Tomberlin, Chairman



Diane Lemmons, Assigned City Staff

4-8-10
Date Approved: