



**MEETING OF THE
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Davis Joint Unified School District Administration Building
East Conference Room, 526 B Street
Monday December 15, 2008
7:00 PM**

Commission Members: Anthony Costello (Interim Chair), Greg Phister, Robert Agee, Anissa Nachman, Sydney Vergis, Tobin Richardson, Joe Hruban, (Alternate vacant), Mark Braly (Planning Commission Liaison), Matthew Kemmerle (Finance and Budget Commission Liaison)
City Council Liaisons: Ruth Asmundson, Don Saylor (Alternate)
City Staff: Sarah Worley, Economic Development Coordinator
Brian Abbanat, Economic Development Specialist

Amount of time for each item is approximate and subject to change.

ABSENT: Mark Braly
Matthew Kemmerle
Don Saylor

7:00 P.M. **1. Determination of Quorum and Seating of Alternates**

Quorum determined @ 7:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved @ 7:02 p.m.

3. Recognition of Contributions of Past Chair

4. Public Comment (5 min)

No public comment

This is the time for the public to address the Commission on matters not listed on the agenda. Presentation time will be at the discretion of the Chairperson.

5. Approval of Minutes

November 24, 2008

Minutes approved @ 7:15 p.m. (Motion: Commissioner Phister; 2nd: Commisioner Hruban)

6. Staff Communication/Updates (5 min.)

Staff discussed the Council Long Range Calendar and the Housing Element Update. Staff provided an overview of Council action on Cannery Park and how the actions affect the BEDC.

Staff provided an overview of the city budget situation.

Mayor Asmundson provided an update on Trader Joe's. City staff had been in contact with Centro Watt the owners of the center who are continuing to work with RAS Associates and representatives of the Yackzan group to relocate to a site in West Davis.

Staff provided an update of businesses that are closing. Discussion followed regarding the BEDC conducting business visits.

7. Business of the Year Award Recommendations (20 min)

Business Award subcommittee provided an overview of their recommendations. Four nominations were received. The subcommittee made three recommendations:

1. Individual Excellence Award: Janis Lott
2. Business Organization Award: Schilling Robotics
3. Extended Excellence Award: Chuck Roe

The Commission discussed ways to raise the award's profile and prominence in the community. Suggestion was made to consider a window decal.

Recommendations were approved unanimously by ballot vote.

Discussion followed regarding timing of ceremony. Commissioners expressed desire to grant award in January or early February. BEDC to draft letter to notify and personally contact recipients.

8. Elections for New Chair, Vice-Chair (5 min)

*New positions to begin the first meeting of the new year -
January 26th, 2009*

Commissioner Costello explained vacant chair positions. Expressed interest in continuing as BEDC Chair and self-nominated.

*BEDC unanimously approves appointment of Commissioner Costello as BEDC Chair @ 7:59 p.m.
(Agee: moved; Richardson: 2nd)*

Commissioner Vergis self-nominated for BEDC vice-chair.

BEDC unanimously approves appointment of Commissioner Vergis as BEDC vice-chair @ 8:00 p.m. (Agee: moved; Phister: 2nd)

9. Economic Indicators Discussion (30 min)

a) Review of Samples

Staff provided an overview of example economic indicator reports and a process for how the BEDC could move forward with such a project.

Commission Chair provided a history of how the BEDC arrived at this point and how BEDC wanted better data to help guide its policy recommendations.

Commissioner emphasized it is important to get the focus and purpose right first. The BEDC needs to create something with an enduring quality.

The Commission discussed parameters for the effort, resources available, and how other organizations approach this kind of project. Staff responded that it varies greatly. Some communities have a parent organization that leads the effort. The goal would be to keep it as

simple as possible, support businesses and monitor business growth. An underlying focus and question to answer in this process is what is the definition of economic health?

Discussion occurred regarding frequency of report and whether it should be issue-specific. Public comment by Jeanne Jones regarding the absence of spinouts materializing from UCD into Davis. There is no clear definition for "high-tech" business. City Council has adopted goals to attract & grow high tech companies. If you can't define it you can't measure it.

A suggestion was made to get others from outside BEDC to help

The Commission agreed to create a subcommittee working group and to include input from some representatives of the business community, outside the BEDC. Subcommittee and staff are to identify possible individuals to invite to assist in the process and return next month with 5-10 major indicators to consider. Staff is to provide full versions of the sample economic indicators reports provided in the BEDC packet.

10. Subcommittee Assignments (5 min)

Subcommittee assignments for the forthcoming year were made and comprised as follows:

Business Retention: Phister, Vergis, Hruban
Business Recruitment: Costello, Richardson, Vergis
Community Enrichment: Nachman, Braly
Info Management/Work Plan: Agee, Richardson, Costello

11. Subcommittee Reports (10 min)

- Business Retention

No update.

- Business Attraction

Staff shared plans for a Golden Capital Network/Yolo Venture Community Business Competition which would draw from Yolo County and beyond.

- Community Enhancement

No report.

- Work Plan and Data

No separate report. Covered during economic indicators agenda item.

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned @ 8:55 p.m. (Richardson: Motion; Agee: 2nd)

Any writing related to an agenda item for the open session of this meeting distributed to the Commission less than 72 hours before this meeting is available for inspection at City Hall, 23 Russell Blvd., Davis.

DRAFT

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Future Meetings: January 26, 2009; February 23, 2009