

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

Economic Development Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday | September 4, 2024 | 8:00 a.m.
Location: Zoom and Economic Development Department
2506 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Coral Gables, FL 33134

EDB MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTING ENTITY
	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	
James Kohnstamm, Vice Chair	P	P	P	A	P	P	PZ	X	P				Mayor Vince Lago
Timothy Heffernan	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	X	P				Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Derrek Space	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	X	PZ				Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Nguyen Castilla Cabanilla	P	PZ	E	P	E	P	P	X	P				Commissioner Melissa Castro
Scott Shuffield	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	X	P				Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Barbara Perez	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	X	E				Amos Rojas Jr.
Thad Adams, Chair	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P				Chamber of Commerce

A=Absent E=Excused Absence P=Present X=No Meeting PZ=Present by Zoom Z=Zoom - =Former Board Member

Staff and Guests:

Belkys Perez, Director, Economic Development Department
Solanch Lopez, Marketing Manager, Economic Development Department
David Harrowod, President, Baldrige Group, LLC

Chairman Mr. Thad Adams brought the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.

1. **Review and approval of July 8, 2024, Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes.**
Mr. Kohnstamm made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Ms. Castilla Cabanilla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There was no discussion regarding the minutes.
2. **Approve Board member's Zoom participation**
Mr. Heffernan made a motion to approve Derrek Space's participation via Zoom and Mr. Kohnstamm seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There was no further discussion.
3. **Economic Development Activities**
 - a) **Taste the Gables Recap**
Item was deferred to the next meeting in November.

b) Economic Strategic Plan

Item was deferred to the next meeting in November.

c) Community of Excellence

Mr. David Harrawood from Baldrige Group, LLC. who is the team's consultant, provided the Board with a presentation regarding the Community of Excellence 2026 program. Mr. Harrawood explained that the Malcom Baldrige program created a Community of Excellence Award using Baldrige criteria. The city, in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, Community Foundation, and Doctors Hospital/Baptist Health South Florida have been working on achieving a Community of Excellence Award for several years. The first ever Community of Excellence Award is scheduled to be awarded in 2026 at the White House by the President.

There are five pillars of excellence that the city is being judged on: Quality of Life, Health & Wellness, Educational Excellence, Safe Neighborhoods, Thriving Economy. Mr. Harrawood's explained the several key indicators for each pillar and how the city compares to Miami-Dade County, Florida and the Nation. The goal is to rank at 80% or higher in each key indicator or 20% higher than the benchmark.

There was discussion regarding high school graduation and reading proficiency rates. This is an area that requires special attention for improvement.

Mr. Harrawood informed the Board that the COE Baldrige Conference will take place in October at the Biltmore Hotel and invited the Board members to attend. This is the first time the conference has been held in Florida.

4. Business Tax License Report

Mrs. Belkys Perez updated the Board on the new and soon-to-come businesses in Coral Gables.

5. Open Discussion

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Yenisis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department.