

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 8:00 a.m.
1 Alhambra Plaza, Suite 617, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	COMMISSIONERS
	'13	'13	'13	'13	'14	'14	'14	'14	'14	'14	'14	'14	
Scott Sime Chair	E	P	A	P	P	P	P						Mayor Jim Cason
Alberto Manrara Vice-Chair	P	P	E	P	P	P	P						Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Jack PJ Mitchell	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						Commissioner Pat Keon
June Morris	E	P	P	P	P	P	P						Commissioner Vince Lago
Alexander Binelo	P	E	P	E	E	P	P						Commissioner Frank Quesada

A = Absent
E = Excused Absence
P = Present
X = No Meeting

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Cynthia S. Birdsill, Director, Economic Sustainability Department
Leonard Roberts, Deputy Director, Economic Sustainability Department
Jorge Casuso, Business Development Analyst, Economic Sustainability Department

Meeting Motion Summary:

Mr. Manrara made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2014 Board meeting. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Sime brought the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

- 1. Mr. Manrara made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2014 Board meeting. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- 2. Presentation by Joe Hovancak, VP of One Community One Goal (OCOG) initiative for the Beacon Council**

Mr. Hovancak made a power-point presentation and showed a video about the One Community One Goal Project. The purpose of the project is to provide Miami-Dade County with a roadmap to grow jobs and investment.

A task force of civic leaders was convened and seven target industries have been identified. They are aviation, creative design, hospitality and tourism, information technology, international banking and finance, life sciences and healthcare, and trade and logistics.

The task force has made 80 recommendations to provide the education and training needed to fill jobs in the target industries. Recommendations, which are in progress, include addressing “skill gaps” for the workforce through education, aligning curricula with target industries and developing talent through internship programs.

A strategic plan has been completed, the plan has been promoted at more than 140 presentations across the country and partnerships have been established with the private and public sectors and with academic and community-based organizations. An annual report will be presented to the community on June 11.

After the presentation, board members expressed interest in exploring ways to bring elements of the project to Coral Gables. Mr. Sime and Mr. Binelo expressed interest in finding out more about possibly locating a jobs incubator in the City. Mr. Hovancak suggested looking at recommendations and finding those that pertain to what the City is doing and what it would like to do.

Mr. Sime said that three of the goals set at the February 5 board meeting had been met. The goals were to meet with an official from the Beacon Council, explore the possibility of attracting new business to the city by approaching business incubators and looking into possible business funding from the state.

Ms. Birdsill said that the City has been focusing on its real estate assets and expanding what it has to offer. It has been trying to appeal to those who head the companies Coral Gables wants to attract.

3. Data on Hotels

The Board reviewed a handout on Visitor Profile and Tourism impact.

4. Update on Business Tax Licenses and New Businesses

The board received the update, and Mr. Manrara took some cards to send a welcome message to new companies.

5. Other City Business

Ms. Birdsill informed the Board about the Water is Life exhibit and lecture at the Coral Gables Museum.

Mr. Sime said he had put the Board’s proposed goals in writing. He handed out copies so the board could continue the discussion at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

The next Economic Development Board meeting will be held on April 2, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Jorge Casuso, Business Development Analyst
Economic Sustainability Department