

SUMMARY MINUTES

Economic Development Advisory Board Meeting

March 4, 2020 – 5:30 P.M.

10770 WEST OAKLAND PARK BOULEVARD

A. CALL TO ORDER BY: SONIA SIERRA, CHAIR AT 5:30 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL The following were found to be present:

Roberta Block
Steve Hoffman
Dottie Stollerman
Karen Scinta
Sophia Haynes
Annie Cohen Coles
Sonia Sierra

Louis Sandora, Director, Economic Development
Karen Lawrence – Secretary

C. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2020 SUMMARY MINUTES

Steve Hoffman made a motion to accept the minutes as recorded. Roberta Block seconded it.

D. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Skye McCloud was present. Skye introduced herself as a member of the Sustainability Advisory Board for many years, and was only visiting to observe.

E. OLD BUSINESS

Roberta Block brought up *Pickle Ball*. She wants to see the City expand opportunities for adult leagues and more courts in Sunrise. She declared that the game is easy, to play. Sophia said that the subject of *Pickle Ball* is not a subject for Economic Development or this Board. Sonia agreed and said that *Pickle Ball* is a Leisure Services event and should be addressed by that Department.

No further old business discussion was conducted.

F. NEW BUSINESS

Steve Hoffman asked if the City had made any decisions on the entryway arch feature at Sunrise Boulevard and Sunset Strip. Lou said that was part of the larger redevelopment efforts on the eastside.

Lou told the Board that the City is purchasing a gas station on the eastside of town, has leased a parking lot from a local Church to create parking spaces at that specific location for City events and begin to improve the curb appeal in that area. He said the City also purchased some retail bays that can be utilized for City programming for children and adults. Lou said other stores purchased by the City on Sunset Strip have created some interest from a few micro brewing companies.

Roberta Block asked about the BB&T Center plans. Lou said that the Panthers have until 2028 as to whether they will leave or remain in Sunrise. He said the County recently unveiled two conceptual plans that would develop the parking fields around the arena based on whether or not the Panthers and the arena remain viable hockey and entertainment destinations. One plan would wrap development around the arena and the other if the Panthers leave would be to demo the building and then start anew as it pertains to redevelopment of site he said.

Sophia Haynes brought up the concept of remote offices geared specifically for those that work from home and the shared concept of office space. She asked if the City would be open to this idea. Lou said this concept was extremely popular a few years ago, but interest has waned because of financial losses by operators of this type of space. He said *WE Works* was an organization that really expanded the concept of these shared offices, providing membership to those that like the idea of being able to meet up with other business groups and entrepreneurs to share ideas in an open workspace.

G. MARKETING UPDATE– LOU SANDORA

Lou told the Board that a new Robotics company recently made their home in Sunrise and will be adding roughly 300 new jobs. This company designs programs and services robotic systems for efficiency purposes. Annie wanted to know why the robotics company had chosen Sunrise, considering most tech comes from Silicon Valley in California. Lou stated that the *South Florida Business Journal* did a recent story on Sunrise, coining the location as Silicone Sunrise. Lou said when Motorola moved out of their space in Boynton and Plantation; the huge tech workforce remained in the area making it attractive for technology companies to locate here.

H. BOARD MEMBERS DISCUSSION

None.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Sophia to adjourn. Second by Annie

The next meeting will be on April 8, 2020.

Transcribed by: Karen Lawrence, Board Secretary

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. F.S.S. 286.0105.