



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

January 10, 2024, at 3:00 PM

www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab

Meeting Minutes

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Michael Stara, Chair	P	8	1
Enrique Bargioni, Vice Chair	P	9	0
Jay Adams	P	8	2
William Feinberg	P	9	0
Russ Klenet	A	6	2
Jadicineia Bess	P	1	2
Mark Giarratano	P	3	0

Staff

Von Howard, Administrative Supervisor (Present)

Melissa Mata, Management Fellow (Present)

Daphnee Sainvil, Public Affairs Division Manager (Not Present)

I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Chair Micheal Stara called the meeting to order at 3:07PM. Roll was called, and it was noted that there was a quorum present.

Quorum was established at 3:07pm.

II. New Business

Meeting Times & Location

Chair Stara moved to the first item in the agenda. Asked members if there were any conflicts with the meeting time and location. None of the members expressed any conflicts or issues. All members agreed they received the calendar invite and agreed to continue to hold the Advisory Board meetings at DSD Development Services Building.

Himmarshee Revitalization Recommendations

Chair Stara moved on to the 2nd item on the agenda. Von Howard and Melissa Mata from the City of Fort Lauderdale reminded Himmarshee Street is an ongoing project to revitalize the street through public input. Chair Stara reminded members the agenda item was brought up by members Jay Adams.

Vice Chair Bargioni sought clarification on the project's scope, and Von mentioned it would be an ongoing endeavor. A presentation from the city on revitalizing Himmarshee was proposed by Chair Stara. The board agreed to receive an update or presentation on this topic at the next meeting.

III. Open Discussion

Chair Stara opened the discussion on what economic development projects can be recommended to the City Manager. Member Giarratano suggested the possibility of bringing the Panthers arena downtown, emphasizing the underutilization of downtown buildings. Member Klenet highlighted the redevelopment



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of the federal courthouse and proposed if the Board can provide input on the two to three blocks near the old city hall for redevelopment recommendations. Member Klenet continued the discussion by mentioning the lack of attention to the county's properties and the County's plan to move the government center across the Brightline in a few years. The conversation extended to the underutilization of Himmarshee, including old bars and historic buildings acquired by developers. Concerns were raised about limited input due to new developments. Chair Stara proposed to add the development of City Hall as one of the Board's objectives for this year.

Russell expressed concern about the low green space in Flagler Village and emphasized the need for more green spaces, suggesting building a park to increase economic development and inclusivity for young families. Member Giarratano mentioned that young families tend to move West of the City due to the Downtown area not being suitable to raise a family. Discussions expanded to incentivize charter school operations by repurposing ground floors on available buildings for academic classes. The need of a 501c3 organization would be fundamental for the funding of a charter school. Member Bargioni inquired about the steps to examine ground floors for a charter school, and Member Klenet emphasized the need for an operator, funding, design, and engineering. Chair Stara suggested adding green space and walkability as the part of the objectives, which were subsequently motioned and approved.

The conversation then shifted to the tunnel study and the city's preference for a bridge, with Russell updating the members on the progress.

The meeting concluded with plans for the next meeting, including a presentation from FTL city staff on the process of reimagining city hall workshops. If no City Employee was available, Members requested a City Commissioner to speak on the City Commissioner priorities. Additionally, discussions included City events such as the Walk of Fame and BBID grant deadlines, a Food and Wine Festival on January 13, and areas of concentration for each board member. Advisory Boards concentrations for the year 2024 will be the following:

1. Chair Michael Stara – LGBTQ
2. Vice Chair Enrique Bargioni – Innovation Companies/Permitting
3. Member Jay Adams – Lifestyle and Quality of Life
4. Member Jadicineia Bess – TBD
5. Member Bill Feinberg – Restaurant Industry
6. Member Marc Giarratano – TBD
7. Member Russ Klenet – Liaison Broward Workshop

IV. Meeting adjourned at 4:26 PM.

The next EDAB meeting will be February 14, 2024 at DSD Building

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.