



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

APPROVED  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD  
(EDAB)  
MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017 – 3:45 P.M.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>January - December</u>	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Jason Crush, Chair	P	9	1
Cary Goldberg, Vice Chair	A	5	5
Steven Buckingham	P	8	2
Mark Budwig	P	10	0
Keith Costello	A	6	4
Christopher “Kit” Denison	P	5	5
Mick Erlandson	A	1	3
PJ Espinal (arrived 3:54)	P	6	4
Lonnie Maier	P	3	0
Dustin Robinson	A	7	3
Jordan Yates (arrived 4:17)	P	10	0

**Staff**

Michael Chen, City Liaison, Economic & Business Development Manager  
Lutecia Florencio, Economic Development Program Aide  
Suzy Joseph, Economic Development Program Aide  
Michael Mitchell, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Communications to the City Commission**

None

**I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum**

Chair Crush called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. A quorum was not present until Ms. Espinal arrived at 3:54.

**III. Staff Updates**

Mr. Chen reported he had changed the format of the building permit graph to calculate the benchmark using the previous five years’ highest monthly level of performance. The red line was the current performance for comparison.

Mr. Chen drew the Board's attention to the BEAMS program advertising flyer. The reverse of the flyer included photos and remarks from some attendees.

Mr. Chen stated they had completed all three of the BEAMS series for the first set of the program and the City Commission had recognized the graduates on December 5. There had been 26 graduates who had completed all classes in a given series and they had helped 57 businesses.

Ms. Florencio explained that the Neighborhood Support Division had submitted the BEAMS program for the Crown Communities 2017 Award. She agreed to keep the Board updated on the process.

Ms. Espinal arrived at 3:54.

#### **IV. Presentations**

Andrew Duffell, President and CEO of the Research Park at Florida Atlantic University. Mr. Duffell also oversees the Florida Atlantic Research and Development Authority. The Mission of the Research Park is to create and sustain the ideal environment for innovation and invention, maximizing the academic and entrepreneurial talent and regional resources in South Florida to accelerate economic development and prosperity.

Board members introduced themselves.

Mr. Duffell said the FAU Research Park had a regional focus on economic development and they wished to have a deeper impact in Broward and Palm Beach counties. He said they looked at ways to partner with municipalities and determined how to best leverage the resources of FAU and the community. They had discussed the possibility of attracting technology entrepreneurs from overseas to Broward County to validate the South Florida and Fort Lauderdale market for the development, sale and distribution of their own technologies. Mr. Duffell believed downtown Fort Lauderdale was an ideal location for such a facility because of its density, cultural diversity and proximity to the airport and port. They had discussed with Broward College and FAU sharing facilities and using their networks and resources. Mr. Duffell explained they had considered which overseas markets to target and the first to come up was Brazil, which already had a trading relationship, a cultural affinity and a network of existing Brazilian businesses in South Florida. He stated they were at the point of determining if this was an opportunity that they were genuinely interested in pursuing.

Mr. Duffell informed the Board that they had 19 mature companies and 18 incubator companies in the park. Each company must satisfy the board that it would have or establish a significant relationship with FAU that would include: student/graduate education or employment; joint research activities; sharing of equipment; teaching at the

school or having faculty consult at the research park. This was done so that the public land had a public use while it was being occupied by private enterprise.

Ms. Maier said because of the facilities and land in Palm Beach County, they spent more time on initiatives there and she wanted to see more emphasis on Broward County.

Regarding contacts in Brazil, Mr. Chen said Fort Lauderdale had two Sister Cities in Brazil and that program was administrated through Economic Development. He offered his collaboration and assistance to establish contacts through the Sister Cities program. Mr. Chen stated the World Trade Center of Fort Lauderdale was owned by a Brazilian company that also owned World Trade Center franchises in Brazil and Spain. He offered introductions here as well and Mr. Duffell agreed.

Ms. Maier asked if the Board could asked the City to be a collaborative partner and request funds from the City to help get a partnership started. Mr. Chen recalled that the Board had provided the City Commission with their top five priorities, which included financially supporting incubators and startups, which suited this priority. The Board could request the City provide funds to participate in a collaboration.

Ms. Maier asked how a collaborative funding request would be made if the Brazilian initiative took root. Mr. Duffell said he envisioned the collaborative making a proposal to the City and the County and their partners for startup funding.

Mr. Yates arrived at 4:17.

Ms. Espinal noted that technical colleges were very accommodating and interested in providing skilled people. She asked if the County had an economic advisory board and Mr. Chen said he was not aware of one, but they worked with Sandy McDonald, Director of the Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development.

Mr. Chen stated the Aero Partners Board was focused on entrepreneurial activity and the City had been invited to be part of this because of the BEAMS program. Other members included the Broward County Office of Small Business and Economic Development, Broward SCORE, the Small Business Development Center, Career Source Broward and the JM Foundation, which served to moderate the group's discussions. He felt Mr. Duffell's organization would be a "natural to add to that conversation" and Mr. Duffell said he was eager to take the Board up on any introductions they offered.

Mr. Yates stated they had discussed mapping the City's resources and creating ways for businesses to get "piped into" those assets by creating a data center for businesses to use.

Mr. Denison asked Mr. Duffy to share the names of the companies affiliated with the research park and Mr. Duffy said they were all listed on the website.

Ms. Espinal recalled that the Board had discussed marine research, such as restocking the fish and coral populations and the medical potential. Mr. Duffell said there was ongoing marine medical research at FAU's Harbor Branch in Fort Pierce. Nova Southeastern University was doing research in the area of coral and fish replenishment and FIU was working on restoration of the Gulf of Mexico and the southern Everglades. He believed this research was not yet developed to the point of having commercial applications, but as it developed, he hoped they would come through incubator resources and into the research park.

Mr. Chen said FAU had a 60,000 square-foot research center at the Davie campus and they had developed nerve regeneration using jellyfish and bone regeneration using starfish. He stated the technology was ready to go commercial and was in the process of gaining FDA approval.

Mr. Chen agreed to invite Mr. Duffell back for an update in a few months.

## **II. Approval of November 8, 2017, Minutes**

**Motion** made by Mr. Budwig, seconded by Ms. Maier, to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2017, meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. New Business**

Mr. Chen said the BEAMS graduates had received a graduate pin and he distributed partner pins to Board members. He stated City Commission members, senior City administrators and BEAMS instructors had also received the pins.

Mr. Chen announced that the next EDAB meeting would be January 10, 2018.

## **V. Old Business**

Ms. Florencio confirmed that the City Commission had received the Board's priorities and they had selected branding, the BEAMS program and incubator acceleration as their priorities.

Mr. Chen informed the Board that the Commission recognized that budget amendments might be needed to help accomplish what the Board was doing.

Mr. Chen described the creation and administration of a CRA and explained that the job of a CRA was to address blighted conditions, which may or may not include economic development.

Mr. Yates provided an update on his meeting with the City's Chief Technology Officer, Michael Maier, the Chief Engineer for Web Services and Jay Stacy, Deputy director of Information Technology. They had discussed the technology aspect of creating the pipeline initiative. Mr. Yates said he needed to provide them with a list of search terms to be used in queries. Then, IT could create a query analytics report for creating FAQs for each topic for the knowledge base a business could search. Ultimately, this would morph into an IA-assisted system a company could use.

Mr. Buckingham clarified that this would be like a portal wherein an organization could query "opening a retail store in Fort Lauderdale" and the portal would respond with the best opportunities and locations for retail, and also explain the permitting process to set this up. Mr. Buckingham said the City of San Diego had this type of portal and it was fantastic. He thought this was a great idea and they should pursue it. Mr. Buckingham agreed to provide a link to the San Diego site for Mr. Chen to distribute to Board members.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.