



**DRAFT**

**City of Fort Lauderdale  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD**  
November 10, 2021, 3:00 PM  
Meeting Minutes

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<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Michael Stara, Chair	A	9	2
Nicholas Kuchova, Vice Chair	P	9	2
Jay Adams	P	8	3
Dudly Etienne-Harvard	P	8	3
Michael Lorigas	P	5	2
Katherine Koenig	P	6	1
William Feinberg	P	8	1
Aaron Baron	P	3	0

**Staff**

- Daphnee Sainvil, Government & Economic Development Manager - Liaison
- Suzy Joseph, Economic Development Representative
- Amber Cabrera, Senior Management Fellow

**Communications to the City Commission**

No communications to the Commission.

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

Ms. Joseph called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM. Roll was called, and it was noted a quorum was present.

**II. Approval of the October 13, 2021, Meeting Minutes:** Vice Chair Nicholas Kuchova

**Motion** to approve the October 13, 2021, minutes was made by Member William Feinberg. The motion was seconded by Member Katherine Koenig. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**IV. New Business**

**Approval of Election Procedures**

**Motion** to approve the Election Procedures was made by Member William Feinberg. The motion was seconded by Member Michael Lorigas. The motion passed unanimously.

**EDAB Election of New Chair and Vice Chair**

**Vice Chair Kuchova:** Provided the board the opportunity to give a brief introduction about themselves.

**Members:** The members introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their background.

**Vice Chair Kuchova:** Open the meeting floor for nominations for the position of the Chair.

**Suzy Joseph:** In Michael Stara's absence he self-nominated himself and wrote a statement. Mrs. Joseph read the statement to the board on his behalf. The statement included an apology for his absence and his willingness to serve on the board as Chair or Vice Chair of the EDAB. He mentioned the importance of providing board members with the opportunity to express their opinion and how no one should dominate the meeting or agenda. He expressed his commitment to the board's mission and the impact the board can make in the future of the city.

He stated that he has no ulterior motives in his service other than helping the City go where it wants to be in terms of Economic Development. He said he's always open to new ideas and issues and would try to work with the board in a constructive, positive, and goal-oriented manner. He ended the statement saying he looks forward to getting to know the board better as we join forces to accomplish great things.

**Motion** to elect Michael Stara as Chair and Nick Kuchova as Vice Chair was made by William Feinberg and second by Michael Lorigas. The motion was passed unanimously.

#### Communications to the Commission and Robert Rules of Order

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Officially delegated the staff liaison responsibilities to Suzy Joseph and expounded on the process on how to properly communicate to the Commission. She clarified that the motions made on the October 13, 2021, board meeting were not an appropriate motion to the commission or the division. She advised that all communications to the board need to be lead with contextual discussion and proper language. Then a motion is made for the communication to the commission. Motion is made, then seconded, and have an open discussion before the final vote. If the motion is made and there's discussion before the second, the motion dies. There were several motions made during the October 13<sup>th</sup> EDAB meeting in which the delivery of the motions was not properly done, as a result, those motions are invalid.

She clarified that transportation issues are not part of the Economic Development task. Sainvil stated the importance of focusing on economic development initiatives, like resources, funding opportunities, entrepreneurial space, small businesses, providing support to the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance aiding in their mission of attracting big businesses. She also vocalized that the Economic Division supplements for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce and there's a good working relationship. She further reiterated that the board has been tasked with curating innovative ideas, providing solutions to issues relating to the mission of the board. Since the majority of the feedback received was in regards to the permitting process, she urged the members to propose permitting solutions to streamline the process.

**Member Feinberg:** Cautioned against discussing issues that are already being done by various organizations throughout the City.

**Member Baron:** Stated that current information on issues is needed to provide valuable solutions.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** An example of the language for Communication to the Commission: "*I would like the following motion to be a communication to the commission.*" Outline the motion and get

the second and have the discussion. She also advised that the board is allowed to attend Tuesday's Commission meetings to further expound on their recommendations.

**Member Feinberg:** In support of Mr. Baron's statement, Mr. Feinberg agreed that it would be beneficial for the board to be informed and notified on Commissions approvals, newsletters and events prior to board meetings for proper research, recommendations and discussions.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Agreed to provide the board links and information for discussion, research, and recommendations. Ms. Sainvil made it clear that certain back up information for City Commission meetings can't be circulated until the Commission Agenda has been published and made public. She reiterated that legally she couldn't provide the board information on unsolicited proposals such as the Boring Co. Tunnel project, as there is a 90-day period in which the information could not be publicized. She also provided a memo with links which contains the discussion, and audio recording of the project as well as, the transportation surtax. She highly recommended that all questions regarding transportation surtax should be redirected to the Planning and Zoning board or Infrastructure Task Force. Finally, she gave the members a task to review the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) ordinance to better understand the vision and mission of the EDAB. She asked the board what would they like to see changed or tweaked in the Ordinance? Cautioning the board to not make the ordinance too narrow and keeping flexibility in mind.

**Member Baron:** Stated that he was not satisfied with the way the City handles P3's and projects, and keeping them behind closed doors lies in the face of the state. Recommends that the P3's be made public to allow a fair chance for others to submit their bid.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** In response to Mr. Baron, Ms. Sainvil expressed that the City's unsolicited P3 process follows state law. The bid can not be seen until it is made public.

**Aaron Baron:** Communicated that he likes to be forewarned and well informed so he can contribute to the discussion.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Suggested that the board should consider making a recommendation to the Commission advising that the unsolicited bid process is outdated and should be revised to reflect transparency and the needs of the community.

**Member Baron:** Mr. Baron agreed to provide a proper motion for the December 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting to revise the City's unsolicited bidding processing for discussion.

**Vice Chair Kuchova:** Mr. Kuchova asked if Mr. Baron had similar examples of P3's bids from other states that can be referenced in the next discussion.

**Member Baron:** Responded that he was involved in bids in the past, the bids would be advertised publicly and advertised in the newspaper. He explained that bids should be made transparent, and the community should know what bids are available and who's bidding. He referenced the tunnel as an example, saying the City's decision to invest \$90 million in the first tunnel should have been publicized when the Commissioners went to Las Vegas to view the tunnel. He would like to assist in changing or improving the City P3 process.

**Member Feinberg:** In agreement with Mr. Baron's thoughts on a transparent Commission, Mr. Feinberg also communicated that the board should try to refrain from discussing projects and

topics that are not in alignment with the mission of the board. Instead, make recommendations that can make an economic impact for the City.

**Member Etienne-Harvard:** She asked with the tunnel in place what can the board do to better assist the small businesses.

**Member Baron:** Clarified that he did not only want to discuss the tunnel, but he also wanted to know why the expansion of the Convention Center did not provide any opportunity for discussion to the small businesses on 17<sup>th</sup> street.

**Member Feinberg & Ms. Sainvil:** Clarified that the tunnel is not at the final stage of conception and the possibility of it happening is still being questioned- can it bring people from Brightline to the beach? Mr. Feinberg added that the expansion of the tunnel into other cities will have a major impact. He stated that the community needs to start thinking bigger and bolder if the City wants to be the city of the future or an 18-hour city.

**Member Baron:** Wants to better understand how the City is participating in the new Infrastructure Bill that was passed and what funds are available for the Boring Tunnel project.

**Vice Chair Kuchova:** Asked the board about access to City communications and events.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Agreed to provide the board with links to the city communications with the assistance of Suzy Joseph. She also provided the board with information on the November 17-18, 2021 Florida International Trade & Cultural Expo (FITCE) event.

**Vice Chair Kuchova:** Mr. Kuchova asked if the City was involved with the Consul Generals attending the FITCE event?

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Ms. Sainvil responded to Mr. Kuchova advising that the Consul General and Deputy Mayor of Constanta Romania and will be greeted with a small reception on November 16<sup>th</sup> and an award to celebrate the Sister Cities Relationships. She also mentioned the opportunity to monetize and expand the international relationship. She also mentioned that she has plans to utilize the Sister Cities relationships by having more presentations at Commission meetings and leveraging the relationships post-COVID.

**Member Feinberg:** Mentioned he was amazed at the number of international people visiting the City.

**Member Koenig:** Expressed needing the location to the resource/incentive information that the City offers the business community to provide proper information.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Explained the City has revamped the website and the Economic Development webpage will contain updating information to reflect incentives and business resources. Also, she would like for the board to provide her with recommendations on incentives for upcoming large, medium, small start-up businesses. She mentioned the option of offering a break on permitting fees or a discount on your local business tax which may require the participation of the BEAMs workshop to qualify. She also stated potential parking vouchers and taking ideas to the City Manager and City Commission for support. She also mentioned various potential partnerships are in the works to assist the business community.

**Vice Chair Kuchova:** Suggested that Member Koenig draft a list of start up ideas prior to the December 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting to be discussed. He also advised that Member Baron prepare some thoughts on his suggestions for a more thorough discussion. He also volunteered to assist with cultivating ideas to connect with the Consul General community.

**Member Adams:** Suggested that the City should consider fixing sidewalks, tree scape, transportation, and believe parking tickets are small issues compared to other bigger problems.

Clarification from September meeting minutes

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Needed the clarification of a communication that was made during the September 13<sup>th</sup> EDAB meeting regarding public lands. She asked the board to provide her sufficient context.

**Member Baron:** He recalled that the motion was pertaining to the Lockhart Stadium and the attorney made a P3 proposal to remove the one stop shop

**Ms. Sainvil:** Clarified that the Lockhart Stadium and the one stop shop is highly politically charged and was told that those discussions shouldn't be discussed at the EDAB meeting until there are relevant economic development initiatives for discussion.

Review enabling ordinance- any recommendations from members

**Vice Chair Kuchova:** Confirmed the circulation of the EDAB Ordinance with the board to be revised and provide recommendations during the December 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Advised that all recommendations of the EDAB Ordinance be sent to Mrs. Joseph to be reviewed and discussed during the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and then sent to the City Attorney for review.

**Member Feinberg:** Suggested that information from the Economic Development partner organization is circulated to the board.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Will work on providing Economic Development published circulations to the board using a monthly newsletter format.

**Member Adams:** Expressed that the City doesn't have enough transportation planners, he would also like to be informed on the City Economic Development Incentives that are available, transparency on who received the incentives and how much funds was given and believe the education workforce could improve specifically in the engineering industry. He also stated that he would like to see the incubator's impact.

**Member Feinberg:** Suggested that the board reconvene their in-person meetings for a more productive meeting.

**Daphnee Sainvil:** Advised the board that the City requires that all board meetings be held in person for all future meetings. She announced that the December 8<sup>th</sup> EDAB meeting will be in-person. She also mentioned that she has the remaining EDAB member parking passes available for their convenience – for those who have not received it.

**Member Baron:** Expressed his thoughts to all veterans in support of Veterans Day.

## **Adjournment**

**Vice Chair:** There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

**Member Baron:** Motion to adjourn.

**Member Feinberg:** Second. Vote to adjourn, the motion passed unanimously.

**V. Next Meeting: January 12, 2021 @ 3:00 PM; City Hall, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Rm.**

### ***EDAB Fiscal Year 2020 Goals:***

- Expand Community Footprint via increased engagement and participation from citizen/residents, associations, other city boards.
- Outreach via City social media Economic Engine Focused Presentations.
- Speakers Presentation Format Board Engagement & Accountability (TBD).

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