

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 24, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Robert Cahill, Greg Federline, Donald O'Brien, Barbara Revels, Jim Ulsamer, Frank Zedar

Members Absent: Wanda Clegg, Joseph Marotti, Mike Gill

Staff Present: Helga van Eckert, Director
Lili Tuggle-Weir, Administrative Assistant

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2. **Roll Call:** A silent roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** April 26, 2017 minutes
Approved

4. **Partner Presentations**

Michael Zaharios, Program Director, Florida Virtual Entrepreneur Center

Mr. Zaharios introduced the council to the Florida Virtual Entrepreneur Center (FLVEC) website and showed the members how to navigate it. He explained that when he first became involved, there was no one place entrepreneurs could go to have access to all the resources they needed such as the Small Business Development Center, local chambers of commerce, CareerSource or the Global Economic Development Group, to name a few.

FLVEC created an online platform for entrepreneurs to be able to find resources, be notified about upcoming events to help them and to connect with other entrepreneurs through the entrepreneur profiles section. The FLVEC has been launched in all 67 counties in Florida.

FLVEC is a program of The Corridor, formerly The High Tech Corridor, a non-profit organization consisting of representation from UF, UCF and USF, formed over twenty years ago. The Corridor provides development grants to start up and expanding companies.

5. **Executive Director Report**

Ms. van Eckert reported on the following:

- Ms. van Eckert introduced Alyssa Hull, Economic Development Intern. Ms. Hull gave a brief bio and explained that her role would be research and developing a business emergency management database.
- Project Spec – We have an interested party that is willing to build a 10,000 – 20,000 sf building. The party will also design a second building with the intention to build at some later date. We will have confirmation by the next EOAC meeting and hopefully a rendering.
- Project Pac-man – A New Jersey business may take advantage of the new building. We will know more in July.
- Multi-family Development – Ms. van Eckert met with a developer in New Jersey during her trip there and opened conversation to try and recruit them to come to Flagler County to build.
- Sandvik – Ms. van Eckert met with the C-suite from Sandvik in New Jersey. Meeting with local business decision makers to learn about planned expansions of those companies is part of the department's Business Retention and Expansion program.
- Project Bags, Project Polly and Project Porsche' – Continuing work on these projects.

6. Council Comments

Frank Zedar spoke about helping a small business find land. He commended the Small Business Development Center for their help.

7. Public Comments

None

8. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the EOAC will be Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Board Chambers.

9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.