

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
August 24, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Frank Zedar, Jim Ulsamer, Nate McLaughlin, Greg Federline, Wanda Clegg, Bob Alex, Robert Cahill,

Members Absent: Mike Gill, Joseph Marotti,

Staff Present: Helga van Eckert, Exec. Director
Lili Tuggle-Weir, Admin.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Nate McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.
 2. Roll Call: A silent roll call was taken, which reflected a quorum was present.
 3. A moment of silence was observed
 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Approved
 5. Commr. McLaughlin read a short bio of Mr. Berridge before his partner report.
 6. Partner Reports: Randy Berridge, President, The Corridor
 - a. Mr. Berridge began by giving an intro as to the topic of his presentation, an update regarding the Florida High Tech Community Council and a brief introduction into the background and founding of the The Corridor / Community Council.
 - b. Mr. Berridge then went on to detail their current top engagement programs out of about 1400, highlighting their Matching Grants program. Moneys from The Corridor and participating companies are combined and awarded to a university professor and students to do applied research projects. It has been named the #1 program in the world in terms of Universities partnering with Companies for applied research programs.
 - c. Mr. Berridge then went on to talk about The Corridor's talent recruitment programs including associate degree funding, university research program creation and middle school STEM student mentoring through virtual camps.
 - d. Mr. Berridge closed by reiterating the importance of continuing to use the resources created by partnering universities with big companies to enrich and grow the talent base of Florida.
-
2. Executive Director Comments
 - a. Ms. van Eckert began by stating that rather than the normal director's comments she was going to be keeping her presentation to one topic, the workforce recruitment grant initiatives, specifically the launch of the YouCanInFlaglerCounty.com site.
 - b. Ms. van Eckert then briefed the committee on the features of the site. Its focus and interactive elements are meant to engage both talent looking to relocate to the county and to give businesses interested in relocating to Flagler a way to promote the area to their relocating employees. The site will act as reinforcement to the existing business incentives and economic opportunities in place and will aim to showcase Flagler

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 24, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

County in its best light. Some categories featured on the site are “meet people”, “find a job” and “points of pride”. She then continued on to detail the concierge qualities of the site, such as allowing existing Flagler businesses to have independent micro-sites featuring available employment opportunities and benefits to working with their company.

- c. Bob Alex commented on his appreciation of the site and his prediction that it will in future help to recruit a great amount of talented additions to the Flagler community. Also recommending outreach to community group leaders to encourage interactions to help make the content stronger.
 - d. Mr. McLaughlin recommended the initial tag line “what do you want” should be rethought to not seem antagonizing to visitors. Adding that all committee members should take the time to view the site and give feedback for improvements.
3. Public Comment: Tom Hellman took an opportunity to promote SCORE’s upcoming BizFest 2016 event. BizFest is designed to attract students, entrepreneurs and those in the business community with an entrepreneurial spirit. Events include speakers, panels, employers and a shark tank competition.
 4. Council Comments – Mrs. Clegg encouraged everyone to attend her farm’s Hay-Day to learn more about agricultural Flagler community operations. Bob Alex then continued his pledge to encourage more community members to attend the EOAC meetings and participate.
 5. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the EOAC will be Wednesday September 21st, 9:00 a.m. in Board Chambers.
 6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned upon motion, seconded, and unanimously carried.