

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
October 26, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Greg Federline, Nate McLaughlin, Joseph Marotti, Jim Ulsamer, Frank Zedar,

Members Absent: Bob Alex, Robert Cahill, Wanda Clegg, Mike Gill

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

1. Call to Order: Chairman McLaughlin 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, which reflected a quorum was present.
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 28, 2016
Approved unanimously

4. Executive Director Report

Ms. Helga van Eckert briefed the council on the efforts of the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) in helping local businesses' recovery after Hurricane Matthew. She provided information about the types of loans available to businesses through the Small Business Association. She stated the businesses have been very resilient and have found alternative ways to keep their doors open to continue to do business. The DEO will be helping to promote the businesses and Flagler Beach.

Mr. McLaughlin interjected the importance of getting the businesses A1A frontage accessible.

Ms. van Eckert spoke about FlaglerAssist.com, a virtual assistance and resource website for residents of Flagler County to help their recovery efforts, the hurricane assistance page on the YouCanInFlaglerCounty.com website and how the community has come together as a result of the hurricane.

Ms. van Eckert noted that DEO would have a booth at the upcoming National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) convention in Orlando. The convention is intermittently in Orlando and Las Vegas each year. DEO has attended two Orlando conventions.

Ms. van Eckert shared that a press release was sent announcing the expansion of Designs for Health, a local nutraceutical company, one of the first companies recruited by the County DEO. Designs for Health expanded their operations here in Flagler County and left the 15,000 sq. ft. facility they were renting to move into a 40,000 sq. ft. building that they purchased. She further announced another company is expanding and she would have an incentive packet to put before the council soon.

Ms. van Eckert said there is an issue with expanding and recruiting businesses due to the lack of building inventory. We are trying to find a way to remedy that.

The quarterly report was shared with the council. Ms. van Eckert stated we will be moving forward with quarterly reports and a comprehensive annual report in the

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future.

5. Partner Presentations:

Robin King, President and CEO of CareerSource Flagler Volusia

Ms. King made a PowerPoint presentation to the council. During the presentation Ms. King spoke about recent activity including the National Emergency Grant which can provide temporary disaster relief for persons who lost their employment as a result of the hurricane and reemploy those without jobs in positions available as a result of emergency recovery efforts.

Ms. King spoke about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Flagler County Schools to provide classes for people who need refresher courses designed to help increase college entrance math and writing scores so they can reenter college under a CareerSource scholarship. She also said CareerSourceFV continues to work with the schools on the Career Community Portal and Vocational Rehab programs.

CareerSourceFV continues to work with DEO on the workforce recruitment campaign.

Ms. King reviewed the most significant recent changes in the organization to include online training workshops and staff changes.

She reviewed the annual Flagler County numbers as follows:

- 3,919 was the number of job seekers served. This is down 65% from 5 years ago.
- 1,182 found employment making the job placement rate 30% up from 18% from 5 years ago.
- 27% is the number of underemployed residents using CareerSourceFV services.
- 300 is the number of veterans served.
- 268 individuals received training either on-the-job or in the classroom.
- 398 businesses were served with over 2,700 services posting 705 job openings with CareerSourceFV.

Ms. King closed her presentation by announcing the upcoming open house on Friday, October 28.

Jayne Fifer, VMA President

Ms. Fifer introduced herself, noted that VMA is the Flagler Volusia manufacturing association. The organization is 36 years old and has 208 corporate members.

Ms. Fifer gave a profile of local manufacturing. She noted manufacturing makes up 5% of the employment market in this area. The number of people employed in manufacturing has grown from 91,000 in 2011 to 11,400 in 2015 and is projected to grow at a 2% rate through 2019. This is important because there is currently a shortage of skilled workforce.

Ms. Fifer shared the findings of the CareerSource Business Intelligence research project relative to manufacturing.

She spoke about the Manufacturing Champions Challenge designed to educate

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residents about manufacturing so they can transmit the knowledge of manufacturing to others. She showed the council some pictures of locally manufactured products.

Ms. Fifer highlighted the success of the Wadsworth Elementary Engineering Academy students at the robotics games where the students placed at the event and won \$100.

Deborah Williams of the Flagler Schools Foundation was scheduled to present. Mr. McLaughlin asked her to come back at a later date to present because the meeting was running late.

6. Council Comments

Mr. McLaughlin congratulated the News Tribune on expanding their distribution to 30,000.

Mr. Zedar asked what the difference in the cost of living between Flagler County and other places. Ms. van Eckert stated there is a COLI calculator on the DEO website, FlaglerCountyEDC.com. She then showed the council how to use it.

7. Public Comments

Rebecca DeLorenzo, President of the Flagler County Chamber approached the podium to give date updates for events rescheduled because of Hurricane Matthew.

8. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the EOAC will be Wednesday November 23, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Board Chambers.

9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. upon motion, seconded, and unanimously carried.