

**ENTERPRISE ZONE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (EZDA)  
MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 09, 2008  
9:00 A.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Christine Hill, Chairman  
Robert L. Burns, Vice Chairman  
Willie Cooper  
Jonathan Baety

Mike Rhodes  
Com. Jeff McAbee  
Mercerdes R. Clark

**ORANGE COUNTY STAFF**

Carla Bell Johnson, Growth Management  
Althea Jefferson, Planning Division  
Alissa Barber Torres, Planning Division  
Luis Nieves-Ruiz, Planning Division  
Janna Souvorova, Planning Division  
Tiana Davis, Neighborhood Services

**GUESTS**

Rogers Beckett, City of Apopka  
Kim King, City of Orlando  
Kerry Symolon, Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission

---

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Nieves-Ruiz indicated that there was not a quorum at the last EZDA meeting. Therefore, EZDA members needed to approve the minutes for the meetings held on May 08, 2008 and August 6, 2008. Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Burns seconded the motion, which passed with unanimously.

**III. REPORTS**

**Chairman Report**

Chairman Hill did not have any reports.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. EZDA Bylaws Changes**

Mr. Nieves-Ruiz informed the EZDA that the Board of County Commissioners adopted the EZDA Bylaws at their October 21 meeting. Before submitting them to the BCC, staff made some additional changes to the Bylaws, based on recommendations from the

County Attorney's Office. The County Attorney's Office indicated that the EZDA would need to approve these new changes after the Bylaws were adopted.

Mr. Nieves-Ruiz summarized the final changes to the Bylaws for the EZDA members. Comm. McAbee made a motion to approve the Bylaws, and Ms. Clark seconded it. The changes to the Bylaws were approved unanimously

## **B. New Officer's Election**

Nominations were accepted for both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman positions. Mr. Nieves Ruiz mentioned that Chairman Hill had expressed interest in continuing in her position. Mr. Cooper proceeded to make a motion to nominate Robert Burns for the Vice-Chairman position, which was seconded by Mr. Mike Rhodes.

Mr. Cooper made a second motion to nominate Ms. Hill, for another term as Chairman. Ms Clark seconded the motion. She made an additional motion to close the nomination process, which was seconded by Com. McAbee.

Com. Jeff McAbee made a final motion to elect the nominees, which was seconded by Ms. Clark. The nominees were elected unanimously.

Chairman Hill asked about the status of the EZDA vacancies. Mr. Nieves-Ruiz informed the EZDA that Mike Rhodes, Orlando's Code Enforcement Division Manager, was recently appointed to fill the EZDA's Code Enforcement position. He indicated that staff is working to find someone from the Town of Eatonville to fill the Non-Profit representative position.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

The next agenda item was the Enterprise Zone Annual Report for fiscal year 2007-2008. Mr. Nieves-Ruiz indicated that despite the weakening economic conditions at the state and national level, the Enterprise Zone Program was quite active this year. Staff answered 359 inquiries, a 50 percent increase from the previous year. Staff also received 233 applications, and approved one Community Contribution Tax Credit Program (CCTP) Sponsor. The estimated amount of tax credits and benefits received by businesses this year was amounted to \$350,221.75. These businesses invested about \$7,000,000 in the EZDA.

Mr. Nieves-Ruiz stated that two local non-profit organizations benefited from the Community Contribution Tax Credit Program (CCTCP) program this year. Habitat for Humanity Orlando received \$199,500, and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Apopka received \$3,974, for a total of \$203,474. In addition to this, 13 childcare facilities benefited from the Enterprise Zone Ad Valorem Tax Exemption incentive. The total value of these exemptions was \$49,129 this year.

Mr. Nieves-Ruiz indicated that based on the estimated value of this year's applications, the CCTP credits, and the childcare exemptions the estimated benefits reached \$602,825, a record number for the Orange County Enterprise Zone Program.

During the fiscal year, staff followed a marketing strategy that included targeted incentive mailings, publishing articles in local newspapers, the creation of a media kit, and the

Pine Hills Business workshop. Staff also organized 14 technical assistance meetings with businesses, and five gave presentations to different community groups.

**B. Site Selection Project Update**

Ms. Souvorova explained to the EZDA members that the original site selection project was done in December 2006 to identify adequate sites for business and residential development and provide general overview of land inventory from a planning and regulatory perspective. For the update, staff also conducted a mini area study for each Enterprise Zone that looked at the redevelopment potential of these areas.

**C. Program Update from Municipality Staff**

There were no updates from the municipalities.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

---

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine L. Hill, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Approval

\_\_\_\_\_  
Luis Nieves-Ruiz, Senior Planner

1/13/2009  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Prepared