

**ENTERPRISE ZONE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (EZDA)
MEETING MINUTES
May 7, 2008
9:00 a.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christine Hill, Chairman
Jonathan Baety
Mercerese Clark
Willie Cooper
Robert Spivey

MEMBERS ABSENT

Todd Dixon, Vice-Chairman
Bob Burns
Jeff McAbee
Eartha Salmon

ORANGE COUNTY STAFF

Alissa Barber Torres, Planning Division
Luis Nieves-Ruiz, Planning Division
Tiana Davis, Neighborhood Services

GUESTS

Rogers Beckett, City of Apopka
Kim King, City of Orlando
Paul Wyche, Wyche and Associates

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at 9:12 A.M.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Hill requested staff made some corrections to the minutes from February 6, 2006. Robert Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. REPORTS

Chairman Report

Chairman Hill expressed that she was thankful for the years of service that Mr. Spivey and Mr. Dixon provided to the EZDA. She had spoken with several individuals whom she thought would be good additions to the EZDA. Edward Woodill owns a texture and interior design firm and is currently donating his services to the Boys and Girls Club of Eatonville. He expressed his interest, but as of yet has not submitted an application. The other possible candidate is Allan Byrd, whose has a background in engineering and construction.

Staff Report

This staff report addressed program activities between February 7 and May 6, 2008. Luis informed the EZDA that there were 98 inquiries during the second quarter of the year and as of April 29, there have been an additional 27 inquiries. Since the last EZDA meeting, staff has received four applications. One was denied, because the company is not within an

Enterprise Zone area. With these new applications, the incentives for the 2007-08 program year totaled \$21,409.77. The total amount invested by these businesses was \$154,172.88. Staff is expecting to receive applications from Brick and Fire Pizza, Walgreens, and House of Plastics before the end of the month.

Staff held three technical assistance meetings with businesses to discuss Enterprise Zone incentives. On February 26, Luis met with Bobby Palta, broker with CB Richard Ellis. Mr. Palta represents Three Ten Restaurant, which may locate in Orlando's SoDo district. On March 13, staff met with Lon C. Hill and Sterling Powell from HZ Construction to discuss all the incentives available to their business. HZ Construction is completing its headquarters in the Pine Hills area. He also attended the grand opening of RL Burns' new headquarters in the Parramore neighborhood on March 28. Finally, Mr. Nieves-Ruiz met with Jerry Harvey and Kerry Symolon at the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission's (EDC) office on April 17. Mr. Harvey is the owner of JH Audio, a new manufacturing venture located in old Apopka Airport.

Staff also worked to coordinate outreach efforts with other municipalities and organizations. On February 12, staff met with Beth Potter from the Town of Eatonville for a briefing about the Enterprise Zone Program. Two days later, Luis and Chairman Hill held a presentation about the Enterprise Zone Program with the EDC's Business Development Team. Luis also presented at the Delta Days at Orange County, which was held on April 4 in the BCC Chambers. On April 30, staff met with the City of Orlando to coordinate outreach efforts in the Orange County Enterprise Zone. A similar meeting will be held with the City of Apopka in the near future.

Finally, Mr. Nieves-Ruiz informed the EZDA about two upcoming activities. Restore Orlando, a non-profit organization based in the Holden Heights, is interested in becoming a sponsor project for the Community Contribution Tax Credit Program. Staff will be preparing a consent agenda item that will be sent for approval to the Board of County Commissioners in June. Another important event is a Community Business Workshop, sponsored by District 6 and Senator Siplin's office. The workshop will be held on Thursday, June 12, from 6 to 8 pm at the Pine Hills Community Center (6408 Jennings Road). Enterprise Zone staff has met twice with representatives from District 6 and the Senator's office to discuss the workshop.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. EZDA Bylaws Discussion

Luis Nieves-Ruiz listed the changes that would need to be made to make the EZDA bylaws conform to the EZDA ordinance. These changes were on Section I of Article IV, which addressed the membership composition of the EZDA. Staff also suggested that the EZDA should change all instances where it referred to Planning Division to Orange County Staff. This would help in case the program is moved to another department. Staff also recommended that the EZDA eliminate Section II of Article VI of the Bylaws which listed the committees that could be established by the EZDA. The EZDA has not used committees, and all committee meetings would also need to be advertised, because of Sunshine Law requirements. Members added language to this section to stress that the EZDA will have authority to appoint committees, as needed from time to time.

The four-year membership terms in section 2 were a great concern to the EZDA. Discussions ensued regarding Advisory Board terms, the extent to which terms are designated by the Board of County Commissioners, and other potential revisions to the EZDA bylaws.

Ms. Clark motioned to accept bylaws as amended, and Mr. Spivey seconded the motion. The bylaws were approved unanimously.

B. Site Selection Project Update

Mr. Nieves-Ruiz highlighted past efforts on this project and advised an update was forthcoming from staff. Back in the December 2006, staff presented a site selection project to the EZDA members. The project included information about factors that could affect the redevelopment of the local Enterprise Zones including future land use and zoning, transportation capacity, school concurrency among others. Staff is working on preparing an update to this report and would be presenting the results to the EZDA at a future meeting.

C. Legislative Update

Staff reported to the EZDA some of the economic development bills that were discussed by the Florida Legislature during the last session. There were no changes made to the Enterprise Zone statutes or incentives in this legislative session.

D. Consultant's Report

Mr. Wyche informed the EZDA that he will be providing staff with a draft article about HZ Construction. This company is building its new headquarters in the Pine Hills area, and is one of the construction firms hired to work on the new Magic arena. He has also been pitching ideas to the Orlando Sentinel to develop a future story about the Enterprise Zone on this paper. He said that the best possibility to get something published would be under the "My View" section of the paper. This prospective article would speak about the value of the Enterprise Zone Program to small businesses specifically during this economic downturn. Mr. Wyche is also considering writing an article about the recent opening of the new RL Burns headquarters in the *Parramore* neighborhood. Finally, he mentioned that they sent the Public Service announcements to several radio stations.

E. Program Update from Municipality Staff (Apopka, Eatonville and Orlando)

None of the municipalities had items for discussion.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m. The next meeting will be held on August 6, 2008, at the Apopka City Hall.

Christine L. Hill, Chairman

Date of Approval

Luis Nieves-Ruiz, Senior Planner

Date Prepared