

**ENTERPRISE ZONE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (EZDA)  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 6, 2008  
9:30 a.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Christine Hill, Chairman  
Bob Burns  
Willie Cooper

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jonathan Baety  
Mercerese R. Clark  
Eartha Salmon  
Jeff McAbee

**ORANGE COUNTY STAFF**

Alissa Barber Torres, Planning Division  
Luis Nieves-Ruiz, Planning Division  
Janna Souvorova, Planning Division  
Tiana Davis, Neighborhood Services  
Carla McClendon, Neighborhood Services

**GUESTS**

Rogers Beckett, City of Apopka  
Kim King, City of Orlando  
Diane Mealo, IFAS  
Wade Vose  
Paul Wyche, Wyche and Associates

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at 9:40 A.M.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was no quorum, so the minutes were not approved.

**IV. REPORTS**

**Chairman Report**

Chairman Hill did not have any reports.

**Staff Report**

Mr. Nieves-Ruiz indicated that the second and third quarter Enterprise Zone reports were included in the meeting's agenda packets. Staff answered 92 inquiries from tax consultants and business owners. Over 80 people learned about the benefits of the Enterprise Zone Program through presentations, workshops, and technical assistance meetings held by staff throughout the third quarter. Staff received 7 applications for Enterprise Zone incentives. These businesses invested a total of \$111,560 and received an estimated benefit of \$13,444.60. In addition, on June 3, the Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution supporting *Restore Orlando's* application to become a sponsor for the Community Contribution Tax Credit Program. The donations received through this program would help

the organization to improve its facilities and expand the recreational and educational program that they offer to the Holden Heights community in Orange County. The Pine Hills Business Workshop was held on June 12. Over twenty business owners came to that meeting. Staff and Ms. Clark participated in the Orlando Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Expo. Over 35 people came to the Enterprise Zone table to learn about the benefits of the program.

The fourth quarter started on July 1 and will finish on September 30. Mr. Nieves-Ruiz indicated that staff held technical assistance meetings with the following businesses: *Maaco Body Shop* located at Mercy Drive and *Banco Popular* on July 3, 2008; *Rosemary's Learning Center* on July 7, 2008; and Sabine Thompson of *Land Form of Central Florida*, a construction business, on July 16, 2008. Staff also completed employee profiles for *Hamburger Mary's Bar and Grille*, *Rosemary's Learning Center*, and *Land Form of Central Florida*.

Mr. Nieves-Ruiz mentioned that so far staff has received 64 applications this quarter. The total investment made by these businesses was \$2,520,636.98, and the amount of estimated benefits was \$144,577.92. With two months left before the end of the fiscal year, staff has certified 79 applications with an estimated value of \$179,049.57. This amount is over \$68,000 higher than last year's benefits. The total investment made by Enterprise Zone businesses this year is more than \$2.5 million dollars.

Mr. Nieves-Ruiz indicated that OTTED released the figures detailing the amount of credits awarded to businesses that contributed to the Community Contribution Tax Credit Program. Two sponsored organizations benefited from this program this fiscal year. *Orlando Habitat for Humanity* had three (3) applications and the total credit was \$199,500. *Habitat for Humanity of Greater Apopka* also had three (3) applications, and the total credit was \$3,974.

In other news, Mr. Nieves-Ruiz informed the EZDA that Janna Souvorova from the Planning Division will be taking over the Enterprise Zone marketing duties after the contract with *Wyche and Associates* is finished. He will still be involved in programming, technical assistance to businesses, and presentations.

Finally, he mentioned that the Board of County Commissioners reappointed Mr. Burns as the Chamber of Commerce representative for the EZDA at their August 5 meeting. Mr. Burns' term will expire on June 30, 2012. Staff is still working diligently to fill the remaining EZDA vacancies and hopes to have them filled by the next meeting.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Election of new EZDA Officers**

Mr. Nieves-Ruiz reminded members that because Mr. Dixon decided not to renew his term, the Vice Chairman position is vacant. Since there was no quorum, elections will be held at the next EZDA meeting. He explained to them that the Bylaws required that both the Chairman and Vice Chairman positions be open for election.

### **B. Apopka Update**

Rogers Becket provided the EZDA with an update of development activity in the City of Apopka. He said that 2,000 housing units have been approved to be constructed, but have not been built because of the slow housing market. Mr. Beckett indicated that commercial activity has picked up. Two new hotels will be built near the Apopka Gateway Center at S.R. 436. He also mentioned that Apopka High School is currently under construction.

**C. Consultants Report**

Mr. Wyche informed the members that his company resent the Public Service Announcements to different radio stations, as requested at the last EZDA meeting. His company also completed articles for House of Plastics and HZ Construction. The consultant indicated that the Media Kit is completed, and he will be hand delivering twelve (12) of them to key media organizations in Central Florida. With less than \$2,000 left in the contract, Mr. Wyche announced that this would be the last EZDA meeting that he will attend. Chairman Hill and the rest of the EZDA members thanked him for his hard work on behalf of the Enterprise Zone Program.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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Christine L. Hill, Chairman

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Date of Approval

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Luis Nieves-Ruiz, Senior Planner

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Date Prepared