

City of Rowlett
Economic Development Advisory Board

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Rowlett Economic Development Building

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Mick Donnelly, called the Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board meeting to order at 8:31 A.M. on June 18, 2024. In attendance: Chairman Mick Donnelly, Chamber Foundation Chairperson Tori Owen, Mayor Blake Margolis, City Councilmember Debra Shinder, GISD Board Member Larry Glick, Chamber President & CEO Sharon Mayer, City Designee Second Chair Michael Weaver, City Designee Rhonda Wolfe and City Designee Tim Abrams. Staff: Assistant City Manager Kristoff Bauer, Director of Economic and Community Engagement Brittney Farr, and Assistant Director of Economic Development Charles Mazarakes and Senior Administrative Assistant Claudia Frausto. Absent was Chamber Board Chair Stephen Causey and City Manager David Hall

2. PUBLIC INPUT IN ANY AGENDA ITEM.

None.

3. CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 16, 2024 MEETING.

A motion was made by Michael Weaver and seconded by Tim Abrams to approve the April 16, 2024 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. BOARD MEMBERS SHARE TOPICS AND IDEAS RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

None.

5. CITY KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING ITEMS.

Rowlett Chamber/Chamber Foundation Update: Chamber President & CEO Sharon Mayer announced the Chamber Foundation received thirteen scholarship applications from GISD students. The board narrowed awarded five \$1,000 scholarships, two from Lakeview Centennial High School, two from Rowlett High School and one from Garland High School. Working to better educate a small group of Chamber Ambassadors that will be conducting in depth data retrieval and relationship building to target business by providing a survey to the Ambassador in hopes to launch visits. Re-engage the Rowlett Woman's Professional Group, Young Professionals and Seniors Works Alliance to benefit the different demographics the Chamber represents.

GISD Update: Larry Glick, GISD Board member provided the GISD update, Mr. Glick discussed talks of budget season for the district, as well events attended within the district. Bond funded projects started as early as the end of last year and are continuing. Inflation is a worry, but interest rates are holding high.

Naming the Rowlett High School Auditorium after Dr Marlene Hammerle as well as the Coyle Band Hall after awarding winning Marcia Zoffuto. A new teacher and retention of senior teachers 3% raise given, anticipated talks of low future tax gratification inflation increase may come. Rowlett Hight School Drama Team won the 2024 Outstanding Musical Award for their production of 'SIX' which was held at Fair Park. Carmen Blakey is promoted to Director of Career and Technical Education and taking over being Principal of Rowlett Hight School will be David Dunphy.

Economic Development Department Update: Brittney Farr, Director of Economic and Community Engagement, started by giving kudos to Carmen Blakey and the GISD facilities team in assisting in making access to Fireworks on Main event easier to the public.

Charles Mazarakes followed with the new business update & BRE report for April and May. New dining experiences include Los Parrilleros with street tacos to rival well-known names. Five Guys with a loyal following and consistent quality. MOMO and Curry is Rowlett first Indian food, anticipating picking up lunch hours as right now, serving dinner hours only. Brick and Bones Backyard opened located in Downtown Rowlett serving family style meals. BRE numbers for the April & May months are not showing the exact numbers, all business that were affected by a Downtown event that required street closures where visited. Positive Downtown Strategic Plan feedback from business owners, consistent BRE visits with partnership from the Chamber in the future.

Charles expects the partnership with the Chamber in and BRE visits to grow. Charles and Sharon to continue to train and push for more interaction from Chamber Ambassadors.

For the Fiscal Year 2024 Q2 with seventeen (17) new business, twenty-eight (28) certificates of occupancy, two (2) new commercial building permits worth \$7,966,613 and thirteen (13) existing commercial building/remodel permits worth \$8,783,794. The economic development website totaled 32,297 hits while creating 59 new jobs and performing thirteen (13) BRE visits.

Charles continued with Sales Taxes for the month of April as the lasts, the Comptroller has reported \$765,574. This is \$14,144, or 1.9% above forecast and \$30,871, or 4.2% more than the same month last year. By the Numbers for the combined months of April & May with thirteen (13) new business, nineteen (19) certificate of occupancy, eight (8) new commercial building permits worth \$72,212,815 and seven (7) existing commercial building/remodel permits worth \$1,527,560. The economic development website totaled 12,609 hits while creating 112 new jobs and performed eleven (11) BRE visits.

Ms. Farr noted the downtown update including upcoming events the Spring Farmers and Crafts Market, last two Thursdays nights through June 27. Fireworks on Main Fourth of July event Thursday, July 4th, 2024 at Pecan Grove Park with ton of activities. Fall event planning and set up as spring events ending.

6. **DISCUSSTION.**

Time and frequency of future EDAB meetings

7. **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT: MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND/OR STAFF MAY MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LOCAL CIVIC EVENTS. NO MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR COMMISSION MAY DISCUSS NOR TAKE ANY ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

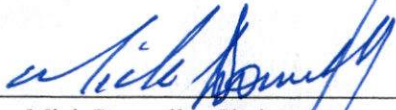
- Larry Glick shared that registration is now for 34th Rowlett Area Chamber Golf Classic Entry - fees include green fees, carts, player packets, a goody bag, and a box lunch. September 19, 2024 12:00pm Waterview Golf Club.
- Mayor Blake Margolis encouraged viewing the work done during the City Council Strategy and Planning Session Monday, June 17, 2024
- New boards and Commissions handbook shared with the Board - [Boards and Commissions Handbook 2024 FINAL with amendments rev2 \(civicplus.com\)](#)

8. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD MAY REQUEST TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDA MEETINGS. NO MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR COMMISSION MAY DISCUSS ANY OF THE REQUESTED SUBJECTS UNTIL SUCH MATTER HAS BEEN PROPERLY PLACED ON A POSTED AGENDA.

- Possible rescheduling of the planetarium for the EDAB meeting. (June 2024 Meeting)
- Larry Glick requested an update on plans to extend Geroge Bush toll to 20 Hwy and 80 Hwy (February 2024 Meeting)
- Brittney Farr listed persons of beneficially strong economic and chamber value for possible speakers for future EDAB meeting (February 2024 Meeting)
- North Shore update/tour requested previously by Chairman Mick Donnelly (June 2023 Meeting)
- Incentives policy updates and changes to be added to a future agenda (October 2023 Meeting)

9. ADJOURNMENT.

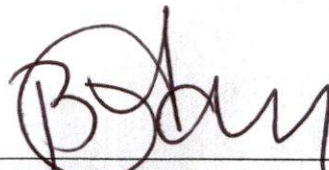
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:32 A.M.



Mick Donnelly, Chairman

7-23-2024

Date Approved



Brittney Farr, Assigned City Staff