



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

April 10, 2024, at 3:00 PM

www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab

Meeting Minutes

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Michael Stara, Chair	P	11	1
Enrique Bargioni, Vice Chair	A	16	1
Jay Adams	A	5	1
William Feinberg	P	11	1
Russ Klenet	P	4	1
Mark Giarratano	A	3	2
Nicolas Kollias	A	3	1
Marianna S. DeJager	P	3	0
Latasha Gorman	P	1	0

Staff

Von Howard, Administrative Supervisor (Present)
 Melissa Mata, Management Fellow (Present)
 Daphnee Sainvil, Public Affairs Division Manager (Not Present)
 D'Wayne Spece, Deputy City Attorney (Present)
 Mariano Fillipini, CEO, Miami Sharks (Present)
 Tomar Ordoñez, COO, Miami Sharks (Present)

I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Chair Micheal Stara called the meeting to order at 3:12PM. Roll was called, and it was noted that there was a quorum present.

Quorum was established at 3:12pm.

Chair Stara requested a motion to table the item, Draft Recommendation on Permitting on Historic Districts to the meeting in June for discussion. Member Feinberg and Member DeJager subsequently moved the item for consideration.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Stara carried out a motion to approve the EDAB Minutes from the meeting that took place on Wednesday, May 8th. Motion moved by Member Feinberg and Member DeJager. Motion passed; EDAB Minutes were approved at 3:12pm.

III. New Member Introduction

Roll call was conducted, and a new member, Ms. Latasha Gorman, was welcomed. Chair Stara requested all members in the room to introduce themselves. Members announced their name, their business background, and who they were appointed by.



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IV. Speaker, D'Wayne Spence, Deputy City Attorney, City of Fort Lauderdale

Chair Stara introduced Mr. D'Wayne Spence, the Deputy City Attorney of the City of Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Spence delivered a presentation on Sunshine Laws and ethical policies applicable to various boards and committees. He provided an overview of the laws and engaged in a discussion accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Spence outlined key points on the role of advisory boards under the City Commission, stressing compliance with sunshine laws in decision-making processes. The Sunshine Law, a foundational principle of the state constitution, mandates that all meetings be open to the public. Dwayne underscored the importance of providing reasonable notice and promptly recording minutes to ensure transparency. Furthermore, he reminded attendees that conducting official business requires a quorum and cautioned against unofficial gatherings of board members outside scheduled meetings. It was agreed that the presentation materials would be forwarded to members for reference.

V. Speaker, Mariano Fillipini, CEO of Miami Sharks

Chair Stara introduced the second speaker of the meeting agenda, Mariano Fillipini, the CEO of the new rugby team, Miami Sharks. Mr. Fillipini provided insights into the organization's structure and challenges. With 7 coaches, 7 office personnel, and 35 players, the team faces the challenge of finding a suitable operations facility. The speaker discussed the logistics of team training and gameplay, highlighting the rapid growth of the Major League of Rugby (MLR). He emphasized the team's efforts to increase visibility through community engagement and local partnerships.

Addressing concerns about player safety and highlighted rugby's growth as an Olympic sport by referencing rugby as a safer alternative due to the fewer concussion risks than tackle football. He outlined the current partnerships and sponsorship they have acquired this season with companies like Visa, JP Morgan, Globant Technologies, ESPN, and Memorial Healthcare. Mr. Fillipini also shared details about sponsorship deals and emphasized the impact of player recruitment efforts like the success Lionel Messi has brought to the City and Inter Miami. Mariano expressed the need for community support in raising awareness about rugby, acquiring sponsorships from local businesses, and securing training facilities for the team.

Chair Stara asked the speakers how the City of Fort Lauderdale could support the Miami Sharks. Suggestions included raising awareness, facilitating introductions to sponsors, identifying training locations, and leveraging Parks & Recreation resources, including football leagues and summer camps. Additional suggestions included leveraging existing relationships with schools and sports organizations to promote rugby locally.

Board members proposed collaborations with educational institutions and sports teams to facilitate player development and promote the sport's growth. Strategies such as engaging with



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high schools, organizing community events, and seeking sponsorship opportunities were discussed. The board expressed willingness to support Miami Shark's endeavors and explore avenues for collaboration with other local entities. At the end of the presentation Mr. Fillipini offered complimentary passes to a Miami Sharks game.

VI. Old Business

Draft Recommendation on Permitting on Historic Districts

The item was not discussed due to the absence of Member Adams. Item moved to the agenda of the meeting in June.

VII. Areas of Concentration

Chair Stara continued to the next item regarding areas of concentration. Member Feinberg mentioned there were many restaurants closing around the city. Member Feinberg did not have a list of specified restaurants. Member Giarratano highlighted the upcoming event of Art Week in Dania from June 1st through June 22nd. Members agreed to send the information to city staff liaisons to share with the board members. Member DeJager announced she would like her area of concentration to be Community Resources. New Member Latasha Gorman asked if she could share that area of concentration with Member DeJager. Member DeJager agreed. No other member had updates on their chosen areas. Meeting continued to the next agenda item.

VIII. Member Discussion

Chair Stara opened discussion for members to discuss any additional items not on the agenda. None of the members had anything to report. Chair Stara asked the board who they would like as a speaker for next June meeting. Suggestions included business skills for creatives, movie studio relocation, and homelessness initiatives. Members agreed to move forward with having a speaker discuss homelessness initiatives as their main preference following the other options as a fill in.

IX. Division Reports

The meeting continued to the last item on the Agenda, Division Reports. City Liaison Melissa Mata reminded the Board next meeting would be held on June 12th at 3:00 PM with the potential speaker from the city to discuss homelessness initiatives. Members agreed. Melissa continued by announcing it was Economic Development Week from May 6-10, 2024. Liaison Melissa thanked the Board for their participation with the Board and their passion for economic development. City Liaison, Von Howard announced that the Public Affairs social media accounts were a great source to stay updated with City news. Members asked to be shared the social media accounts. No other updates were provided.



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X. Meeting adjourned at 4:34 PM.

The next EDAB meeting will be June 12, 2024, at DSD Building.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.