

CITY OF FREEPORT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
200 West 2nd Street, Freeport, Texas 77541

MINUTES

STATE OF TEXAS)
)
COUNTY OF BRAZORIA)
)
CITY OF FREEPORT)

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Economic Development Corporation of the City of Freeport met on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the City Hall Conference Room, located at 200 West 2nd Street, Freeport, TX, for the purpose of considering the agenda items.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT: Quorum Present

Trey Sullivan – President
Ed Garcia
Lesa Girouard
Mingo Marquez
Marinell Music

Tim Kelty: City Manager
Stephanie Russell: City Finance Director
Chris Duncan: Attorney
Kenneth Green: City Council Liaison

Visitors in Attendance:
Melanie Oldham

1. **OPEN SESSION:**
 Mr. Garcia opened the meeting at 6:15 p.m.. A quorum was present. Garcia, Girouard, Marquez, Music.

2. **Approval of Minutes from March 12, 2019:**
 MOTION made by Ms. Music to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Marquez.
 Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

3. **Citizens Comments:**
 Mr. Garcia announced the opportunity for any visitors present to address the board.

Melanie Oldham requested access to a larger version of the 2016 LJA plan map. Melanie asked if any developers can make development proposals to the EDC Board, or only a

select pre-approved few. Duncan pointed out that the EDC Board will consider proposals from any person or organization. Any person or organization that wants to speak to the board should contact Mr. Kelty and request to be placed on a meeting agenda. Ms. Oldham asked the EDC Board to consider an affordable buyer price point for residential development.

4. WORKSHOP: FREEPORT BRAND AND VISION

DUNCAN reviewed notes and findings from the prior EDC Board meeting regarding branding and proposed projects. Then board members were allowed to express their views one at a time. Mr. Sullivan arrived during this agenda item.

Ms. Music: wants Freeport to be known as a place that is safe, friendly and clean. She believes we should promote the PD and safety. Improve wheelchair access for sidewalks, have better signage throughout the city to direct visitors to areas of retail and dining, have more events. Ms. Music wants the EDC to develop unique attractions that cannot be found in other cities, and find activities that will attract young people to Freeport. Ms. Music believes the golf course facilities need to be upgraded in size and quality to host events that are being held in Lake Jackson.

Ms. Girouard: Would like people to think of Freeport as a place that is unique, fun, and cool. She wants improved landscaping, upgrade the park pavilion, beautify fire hydrants, promote family friendly events, and enforce code ordinances.

Mr. Sullivan: Agreed with the ideas proposed by Music and Girouard and in the prior meetings. Mr. Sullivan pointed out that the EDC needs to retain Catalyst Commercial as a priority to give professional guidance for the Board ideas.

Mr. Kelty: Spoke additionally about the need to retain Catalyst Commercial. He pointed out that the best way to help local business is to attract more businesses.

Mr. Garcia: Stated that we need to analyze the beach and wetlands at Bryan Beach and the land owned by the City to determine development options in that area. He wants to provide incentives to downtown building owners to improve their buildings and also use enforcement to achieve compliance with existing rules. Mr. Garcia proposed discussing opportunities with the railroad to place large, nice signage on the railroad bridge crossing the river, as it has very good visibility.

The following items were highlighted for future consideration:

- Signage for Bryan Beach on Highway 332
- Investigate the GLO Rules to allow for beach permits
- Develop an organized public relations program

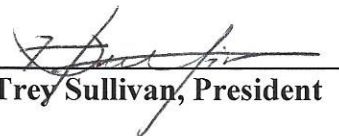
5. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The following items were proposed to be placed on the next meeting agenda:

- Consider retaining Catalyst Commercial
- Discuss proposed Freeport Trade Days

6. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Marquez, seconded by Mr. Garcia.
Motion **PASSED** unanimously.


Trey Sullivan, President