

CITY OF FREEPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF FREEPORT

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Economic Development Corporation of the City of Freeport met in a scheduled meeting Thursday, July 8, 2010 at the Freeport City Council chambers at 403 N. Brazosport Boulevard, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items.

Jim Barnett (President)
Lila Diehl (Secretary)
Kenny Kouches
William Rains

Elliot Cundieff (Vice-President)
Sandra Wood-Wicke
Lon Siddall

Visitors in attendance: Rosa McDonald, Eric Hayes, Joyce Atkins, Nicole Mirales

OPEN MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Jim Barnett at 6:00 pm.

CONSIDERATION APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF

A motion was made by Ms. Wood-Wicke to approve the minutes from May 27, 2010 for June 3, 2010 and for June 7, 2010, the motion was seconded by Mr. Siddall and passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Rains to approve the minutes for June 24, 2010, seconded by Mr. Siddall and also passed unanimously.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

MARINA PROJECT MANAGERS REPORT

Gilbert reported that everything was still floating, and that there had been an 82' Sea Scout at the Marina for a night. The concrete is being poured, and there have been lots of people coming to check out the Marina.

Mr. Siddall asked about calls being received, Gilbert said that he has received calls from Houston, Conroe Galveston and also from South Texas during the storms, people asking about bringing their boats here away from the Storm. He also told the Board that the Flood Gate had been lowered and no one with the City was notified, which

would have been a problem if he had boats coming in to the Marina because of the storm. He said he has also had a few calls about the Drystack Building. Mr. Barnett asked if the Project has been turned over to the City, Gilbert informed him that it has and that the City will finish the Marina and Rent Slips. He also wanted to let everyone know that they would be hiring a new Marina Manager.

FINANCIAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Mr. Welch informed the Board of the EDC Budget and how the sales tax revenue is used. He also explained the different Lease payments and explained the Loan from the Bank.

BOARD SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Rains stated that there was some City property that Mr. Pynes had some builders and contractors that were interested in building on those sites, and that Mr. Pynes wanted to turn that over to the EDC to pursue.

Ms. Diehl was concerned about the Levees being Re-Certified and that they were told that they weren't going to make it on the new maps that were due out in December of 2012, and how that is going to impact the citizens of not only Freeport, but also Clute Lake Jackson and Richwood. Mr. Cundieff suggested that the Board have someone come and speak and explain the situation to see if it was as bad as it sounds.

Ms. Wood-Wicke was interested in the Wetlands and getting a Bird Observatory, and that Ducks Unlimited was interested in it. Jim said that he believed that there is a plan somewhere for that. She also has been working with Taste of the Nations to bring them to Freeport possibly into the old Movie Gallery building. New Inspirations from Angleton would also like to put a small Spa in Downtown Freeport.

Mr. Barnett pointed out that our Visitor center is not open late, nor on weekends when this would be the time that tourists to the City would need information. It was suggested to look into those hours.

Mr. Kouches said that he agreed with Sandra, that Birding is a 3 billion dollar industry and we aren't apart of it and that we really needed to get involved. He also said that over Memorial Day Weekend there were 25-30 people Saturday morning eating at the Port Café who were from the Marina, there were about 15 boats passing through and had stayed the night.

Mr. Cundieff thought that it is going to be important to get more advertisement out about the Marina and what it has to offer with the Storm protection. He thought that we need to get more exposure and maybe go to shows.

TOUR AND INSPECTION OF THE MARINA

It was discussed by the Board and decided to tour the Marina at the next meeting on July 22, 2010 at 6:00 pm.

ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Siddall, seconded by Mr. Rains and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

These minutes were read and approved this _____ day of July, 2010.

James Barnett, President

Attested to by Lila Diehl, Secretary