

**HORIZON COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 23, 2018**

**Members Present:**

Gray Davis	Dan Eveloff
Chauncey Goss	Gary Griffin
John Manning	Gail Markham
Jennifer Nelson	Amy Quaremba
Robbie Roepstorff	Russell Schropp
Ben Siegel	Jim Wilson

**Members Attended via Teleconference:** Chris Spiro

**Members Absent:**

Greg Adkins	Dennis Boback
Dane Eagle	Randy Henderson
Michael Martin	David Miller

**Staff and Guests Present:**

Warren Baucom	Rebecca Czyz
Antranette Forbes	Tiffany Grint
Pamela Johnson	Amy McQuagge
Melanie Schmees	Dilman Thomas (Horizon Foundation Chief Fundraiser)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Gray Davis called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2018 meeting was made by Chris Spiro, seconded by Russell Schropp, and unanimously approved.*

**III. CHAIR REPORT**

Davis announced that the Horizon Council Day at the Stadium is set for March 6, and 35 members had already RSVP'd their attendance. Davis encouraged members to contact Amy McQuagge if they wanted additional tickets.

The Horizon Council Planning Meeting is scheduled for March 28. The meeting is late this year due to Hurricane Irma and changes in operational structure. Davis and Gary Griffin will reach out to members unable to attend, solicit feedback and input before the meeting. A draft agenda for the meeting includes an examination of the overall mission and objectives, a review of the EDO marketing strategy for 2018, discussion of the 2018 Horizon Foundation fundraising changes and objectives, and a review of all existing committee and task force plans. The outcome will be a plan that is presented to the General Membership.

Davis and EDO staff are working to set up future Presidents' Circle events and to line up guest speakers for General Membership meetings. Topics include Tax Reform Implications (scheduled for Presidents' Circle on March 12), medical marijuana, apprenticeships, and code regulations. Davis asked for input from members on speaker topics. Members offered topics such as transportation and traffic congestion, associate/employee retention, and attainable housing.

The Southwest Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has had a change in representatives. The Council welcomes Janeth Ramirez as the new representative.

#### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Business Issues – Russell Schropp**

The funding contribution for the attainable housing study report contract is on the Horizon Foundation agenda for today.

**b. Workforce – Dave Miller**

No report given.

**c. Outreach/Marketing – Gary Griffin/Chris Spiro**

No report given.

**d. Healthcare – Dan Thompson**

The Healthcare taskforce chair position is still open. Davis and Dilman Thomas are currently working to identify someone to lead this taskforce.

**e. Commercial Corridor Revitalization – Dan Eveloff**

The committees are becoming larger and more engaged. North Fort Myers has seen the most progress to date. The Lehigh Acres team has identified a leader and are currently working on short term goals.

#### **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. North Fort Myers Incentive Pilot Program**

Pamela Johnson announced that on January 16, 2018 the Lee County Board of County Commissioners approved the North Fort Myers Revitalization Pilot Program. A map of North Fort Myers was shown, outlining the areas encouraging office, commercial and mixed-use redevelopment projects, with the goal of enhancing the economic vitality of the area. The North Fort Myers program video for potential investors and developers is not finished and will be shown at the next Horizon Executive meeting. A summary sheet of the incentives can be found on the web site [www.incentives.developnfm.com](http://www.incentives.developnfm.com).

**b. New EDO Website**

Amy McQuagge showed the home page of the future EDO website. The new website has been simplified both aesthetically, and navigationally. The site will have updated information, resources, data, and tools concentrated on helping businesses to start, grow and relocate. Upcoming events, mass video footage, an EDO blog, Lee County LimeLights, etc. have been included.

**c. Horizon Council Member “At Large” Application**

Kristy Knupp will replace Jessica Wells as the Chico’s At-Large representative.

#### **VII. LEE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR REPORT**

Johnson introduced EDO’s new intern, Melanie Schmees. Schmees came to EDO in January of 2018. She is an FGCU Senior, working towards a dual major in Finance and Economics, and will graduate in May. She is involved in the PSE Business Fraternity and Internship Ambassador programs.

Johnson then talked about the 2nd Annual Women’s Business Summit held at Florida SouthWestern State College on February 16. Diane Ellis from Chico’s was the keynote speaker.

There were 179 participants and 22 panelists that attended. Johnson thanked Gail Markham for her participation as a panelist. A post-event survey returned with high satisfaction ratings.

#### **VIII. MEMBER & PUBLIC INPUT**

Dan Eveloff discussed the Florida Mission of Mercy (FLMOM) event coming to Fort Myers on March 9-10. The event is a large-scale, two-day, non-profit traveling professional dental clinic that provides care to any patient at no cost to them, with the goal of serving the underserved and uninsured in Florida, those who would otherwise go without care. The FLMOM will set up at the Lee Civic Center; their goal is to help 2,000 people in the SWFL area.

Eveloff mentioned that Commissioner Frank Mann had already signed up as an ambassador and encouraged other Horizon members to volunteer as well, or to use the volunteer opportunity as a team-building event for employees. More information can be found at [www.flamom.org](http://www.flamom.org).

Ben Siegel mentioned that Page Field would hold Aviation Day on April 7, 2018. He encouraged members to drive by the General Aviation Airport at night to see the new lighting system and rehabilitated runways. He also noted that the concourses at RSW now have several grab-and-go food and beverage locations, including a Starbucks on Concourse C.

The Collins Foundation Wings of Freedom Tour had great participation this year.

#### **IX. ADJOURN**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 a.m.