

**HORIZON COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 27, 2018**

**Members Present:**

Greg Adkins	Brandon Box
Gray Davis	Dane Eagle
Dan Eveloff	Chauncey Goss
Gary Griffin	Randy Henderson
John Manning	Gail Markham
Michael Martin	David Miller
Jennifer Nelson	Robbie Roepstorff
Russell Schropp	Ben Siegel
Chris Spiro	Jim Wilson

**Members Absent:**

Anita Cereceda	Amy Quaremba
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**Staff and Guests Present:**

Warren Baucom	Rebecca Czyz
Tiffany Grint	Pamela Johnson
Amy McQuagge	Glen Salyer
Melanie Schmees	Dilman Thomas (Horizon Foundation Chief Fundraising Officer)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Gray Davis called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*A motion to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2018 meeting was made by Chris Spiro, seconded by Russell Schropp, and unanimously approved.*

**III. CHAIR REPORT**

Davis extended congratulations to Gary Griffin for his induction to the SWFL Junior Achievement Hall of Fame.

A news article titled "2018's Best & Worst Small Cities to start a Business" was provided to Board members. Fort Myers ranked #10 Best City on a survey conducted with 1,200 cities across the country. Fort Myers also ranked near the lowest on Human Resource availability.

Davis shared that he, Griffin and Antranette Forbes had met with Yemisi Oloruntola-Coates, System Director of Diversity and Patient Care for Lee Health. Oloruntola-Coates gave a presentation on how engagement with families can assist in retention and employee attraction for our local businesses.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. **Outreach/Marketing** - Chris Spiro discussed updating the current PowerPoint presentation with EDO staff. The committee will be presenting to the City of Cape Coral in two weeks.
- b. **Workforce** – David Miller said that a Workforce meeting was scheduled for May 17, 2018.
- c. **Commercial Corridor Committee** – Dan Eveloff noted that the North Fort Myers video is at final draft stage. Committee member and partners are working to find the best ways to market the video to developers and through social media. In addition, they are also working with the

North Fort Myers team to potentially identify and build a committee around workforce, hoping to combine efforts with the Uncommon Friends Foundation.

- d. **Business Issues** – Russell Schropp discussed the reorganizational meeting held on April 12, 2018. Three main areas of focus in the future were brought up. The group will continue its efforts looking into attainable housing and working with the Attainable Housing Coalition. At their next meeting, they will be reviewing the preliminary findings of the Attainable Housing study partially funded by the Horizon Foundation. The second area was workforce issues. Schropp encouraged anyone from his group interested in workforce issues to join David Miller’s Workforce Task force to avoid overlap. The third issue was permitting, primarily at the building permit and development order stage. The next meeting is set for May 23, 2018.
- e. **Healthcare** – Davis recommended for approval that Brandon Box be the next Healthcare Task force Chair. Davis and Griffin met with members of Lee Health to discuss responsibilities and how to move forward. A Healthcare Task Force kick-off meeting with Dan Thompson, former Task Force Chair, and Christin Collins of Lee health will be held Thursday, May 3.

*A motion to approve Brandon Box as the new Horizon Council Healthcare Task Force Chair was made by Randy Henderson, seconded by Robbie Roepstorff, and unanimously approved.*

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

None.

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

- a. A Horizon Council Member “At Large” Application was received, will be vetted and reviewed, and the Board will take action at a future date, yet to be determined.

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

Pamela Johnson announced the soft launch of the new Economic Development website. The new website offers more robust content, greater access and ease of navigation. Amy McQuagge and Rebecca Czyz displayed the new website to the Board, showing that the site now concentrates on three main pages. There is a start-up business page, for entrepreneurs or anyone thinking about starting a business. The relocate page speaks to site selectors and contains a vast collection of data and success stories. The project page features EDO’s DevelopLee initiatives. The business event calendar will feature Horizon Council and EDO events, along with other non-profit business related events in the area.

Johnson thanked Spiro for providing direction and guidance on the new site, and also the Foundation and the Council for their support.

In January, the Board of County Commissioners approved the North Fort Myers pilot program including the mixed-use overlay. The DevelopLee committee worked with Waldrop Engineering to create a video of North Fort Myers for marketing purposes. The Board was shown the North Fort Myers video. Johnson thanked the DevelopLee committee, Rachel Busch and the Lee Community Development department for their help with the film. Spiro asked that the Horizon Foundation, Horizon Council and EDO logos be added to the beginning and end of the video.

Davis commented he was very impressed with both the new website and the North Fort Myers video. He congratulated the EDO staff on a job well done.

A calendar of the remaining 2018 meetings was handed out to Board Members.

**VIII. MEMBER INPUT**

Michael Martin invited the County and the Horizon Council to consider what FGCU could jointly do with a 500-acre area near Buckingham, to meet the shared mission of education, research and engagement, but to also to serve the County's economic development.

Greg Adkins referred to the "2018's Best & Worst Small Cities to start a Business" article and Fort Myers' being on the lowest Human Resources availability list. He said this was a good opportunity for the Horizon Council to connect with the School District, as they are looking forward to expanding their technical colleges and our academies as part of our strategic plan.

**IX. ADJOURN**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 a.m.