

Economic Growth Task Force

February 17, 2010

11:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Raj Ravi, Chair; Steve Sacone, Vice Chair; Peter Buczynsky(part); Renee Dyer; Dodi Froehlich; Dave Parris

Members Absent: None

Guests: Susan Blackburn, Market President - Tampa Bay Region, Synovus Bank; Chris Steinocher, Chief Operating Officer, Tampa Bay Partnership

Staff Present: John Hagen (part), Denise Sanderson, John Walsh

Summary Notes & Action Items:

John Walsh reviewed the draft Business Tax Receipt Form. John is awaiting feedback from County staff regarding Home Based Businesses. TF Members suggested some revisions.

Action Item: Denise will make revisions to form and send out for final TF review.

Action Item: Denise will schedule a meeting with Commissioner Michael Cox and Renee Dyer to discuss proposed changes and ask Commissioner Cox for his assistance in helping to get changes made at Tax Collector's office.

John Walsh discussed the proposed Pasco Manufacturers Capability Index. The Index, when developed, will be used to identify capabilities of area manufacturers, distributors and related companies. Service and support industries may be added in future. Chris Steinocher, Tampa Bay Partnership, sees value in developing this Index regionally.

Action Item: John Walsh will meet with Peter Buczynsky to discuss format, content, and development needs of electronic Index.

John Walsh discussed Catalyst proposal. Catalyst provides searchable land and building database. FGCAR currently uses Catalyst. PEDC can purchase annual access to Catalyst, obtain affiliate membership to FGCAR and have searchable database embedded on PEDC website.

Action Item: John Walsh to move forward with regular membership with Catalyst.

Denise Sanderson gave brief review of Economic Gardening status. Denise to meet with representatives of Young Rainey Star Center (Incubator), located in Largo, on 2/24. Denise also noted CEO Roundtable participants may split into 2 groups – Stage 2 with Peerspectives and others with Executive Forums. Denise also noted she has reached out to Wilton Simpson about convening a group of possible investors who may wish to consider coming together as a local Angel Investor Group. John Walsh and John Hagen toured County-owned, vacant, Denton Ave building. John Walsh reported County has estimated it will take approximately \$250,000 to bring Denton Ave building up to current code. John also reported he and John Hagen will be evaluating opportunities to apply for seed funding (through USDA and/or EDA) for a revolving loan fund. Chris Steinocher noted he has been told Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Pilot Program (administered through UCF) is actively seeking participants around the state through its GrowFL.com website.

Action Item: Denise to tour StarTec

Action Item: Denise to identify participants in Peerspectives and Executive Forums

Action Item: Denise to contact Kathy Baylis in Sarasota re: formation of local Angel group

Action Item: Denise to work with Wilton Simpson to convene a group of potentially interested participants in an Angel Investor Group.

Action Item: John Walsh and John Hagen to gather info on USDA and EDA opportunities for possible funding for revolving loan fund.

Action Item: Denise to promote GrowFL website and application process for Stage 2 companies who may benefit from the particular assistance provided by Economic Gardening program.

Renee noted she will continue to meet with Economic Competitiveness Task Force and report to EGTF the activities and progress of the group.

John Hagen reviewed the draft Marketing Plan currently being developed by PEDC.

Chris Steinocher reviewed the process of the Cluster Study currently underway at Tampa Bay Partnership and asked for a volunteer to work with his group. John Walsh noted this information will help PEDC market the skills and abilities of our resident labor force.

Action Item: Peter Buczynsky to work with TBP.

Raj Ravi facilitated a discussion to identify top priorities of EGTF. It was agreed the priorities for the group are:

1. Implement new Business Tax Receipt Form through Tax Collector's office to obtain valuable and necessary information.
2. Continue to develop Economic Gardening Program including CEO Roundtables, Revolving Loan Fund(s), Incubator(s), Angel Investor Fund
3. Develop Capabilities Index

The meeting adjourned at 12:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Sanderson