

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 26, 2023

2:30 PM

Accelerate - Sid Martin Biotech,
12085 Research Drive, Room # - Hutchinson PLLC Conference Room,
Alachua, FL 326015

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JEFFREY ARNOLD
MICHAEL CARNEVALE
TRENTON HIGHTOWER
LINDA JAMES
CAROLYNN NATH KOMANSKI
RICK SMITH
KINNON THOMAS
TRACEY TODD
ELLIOTT WELKER
RICHARD WILHELM
MARLON BRUCE

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MINUTES

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EDAC Members Present: Jeffery Arnold, Marlon Bruce, Trenton Hightower, Linda James, Kinnon Thomas, Elliott Welker, Tracey Todd, Carolyn Nath Komanski, Michael Carnevale, Rick Smith

Other Attendees Karl Lapan, Sean McLendon

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chair Welker at 12:31 PM.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME TO TRENTON HIGHTOWER & KINNON THOMAS – The Committee welcomed the new members.

REVIEW OF AGENDA Kinnon Thomas moved to approve the minutes and Tracey Todd seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Michael Carnevale moved to approve the August 24, 2023, and September 28, 2023, EDAC Meeting Minutes. Kinnon Thomas seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY PARTNER OUTREACH MEETINGS

UF Innovate Discussion of Economic Development Priorities

Elliott Welker and Karl Lapan gave an overview of UF Innovate and the technology, incubation, and commercialization efforts at the University of Florida. This year UF \$1.25 billion is being spent on research. Only a small percentage of that research is commercialized but because core research is so large, it has an outsized impact on job creation and economic development. At Sid Martin Hub there are over 1,200 jobs and over 60 companies have spun out of the park.

Elliott Welker reviewed technology licensing history, [law](#), and other Hub wrap-around pathway services to help accelerate the commercialization of the research. UF Innovate in mid-town Gainesville and Sid Martin is classified as a super-hub with over 130k sf of incubation space and is one of the best resourced programs in the country. The Hub offers shared equipment services and a technical service manager to clients and can assist

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

companies start and find capital for the expansion of companies in their service. UF Innovates' mission statement is "UF Innovate connects innovators with entrepreneurs, investors and industry, incubates startups and growth companies, and fosters a resilient economy — all in an effort to make the world a better place."

UF Innovate helps early-stage bioscience and technology companies grow by providing:

Essential resources:

- Lab space, equipment, and shared scientific facilities are worth over \$1.7 million.
- Conference/training rooms, animal facilities, greenhouses, and dry/web lab space.

Expert guidance:

- Assistance with funding, legal/accounting, mentorship, and recruitment.
- Connections to investors, advisors, and professional service providers.

Strategic locations:

- Accelerate at Sid Martin Biotech in Alachua offers bioscience-focused facilities.
- Accelerate at The Hub in Gainesville is the largest incubator in the Southeast with diverse resources.
- The 441 corridor from Alachua to Gainesville is primed to be high-tech research corridor.

Experienced leadership:

- A dedicated team of business leaders, advisors, and support staff.
- Pitch counseling to help researchers communicate their projects to investors and grantors.
- UF Innovate is a multi-award-winning organization.

The County Commission is interested in how they can be better partners to UF Innovate.

Karl Lapan listed the following priority areas:

- Improvement of K-12 schools. Quality schools help recruit the best research and business talent.
- Accessibility. Speed matters for this industry and the airport's limited access constrains opportunities.
- Tone. Business need to know that their government partners are consistent and steady in its administration.
- Talent generation. We need to celebrate and further develop the K-12, Santa Fe College, UF talent pipe line with the goal of keeping them here.
- Incentives are needed to support industry.
- Regionalism. We need to think regional rather than as just as singular entities.
- Alignment. There should be alignment between economic development strategies with strategic goal of making job creation a priority with targeted investments.

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DRAFT 2022-2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT & 2023-2024 WORK PLAN

Staff presented the final draft of the report. It will be presented by EDAC's Chair to the Board of County Commissioners at their November 14, regular meeting.

Vice-Chair Komanski suggested Municipal concern in the lack of urgency in the deployment of high-speed internet in the County. Lack of this resource is a roadblock to economic development.

Vice-Chair Komanski also called out the need to highlight Newberry's productive partnership with FDOT in creating their new split lane traffic pattern.

These statements can be touched on in the Work Plan and Accomplishment report and can also be focused on in future stand-alone reports to summarize all municipal concerns later in the year.

EDAC wishes to be impactful in the community and have effective goals. To that end they will work with staff through the new year and the County's FY25 budget development process to bring additional resources to affect that.

Michael Carnevale requested that all community partner meetings that staff RSVP to make sure there is an actionable quorum rather than a workshop meeting. Staff responded that they would send an RSVP to all EDAC members a month in advance of the meetings.

MEMBERS COMMENTS

ADJOURN The meeting adjourned at 4:03 PM.