

Economic Development Advisory Committee

Date: October 3, 2024
Time: 2:30 pm
Location: County Administration Building - Grace Knight Conference Room
12 SE 1 Street, 2nd Floor, Gainesville, FL 32601

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

Members Present: Carrie Bush, Michael Carnevale, Romona Jackson, Patricia Lee, Elliott Welker, and Ying Xu

Members Absent: Jeffrey Arnold, Linda James, and Tracey Todd

2. Review of the Agenda

Patricia Lee made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Romona Jackson seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ying Xu made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Romona Jackson seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

4. Presentation

4.1 Shannon Ritter, Director, Career and Adult Education. Alachua County Public Schools - Workforce Development: Jobs Pipeline Five Subcommittees Plumbing, Electrical, Power, Diesel Mechanic, & CDL

Shannon Ritter, Director of Career and Adult Education, introduced School Board Member Diyonne McGraw, who accompanied her to the meeting. The School Board of Alachua County is working to provide students with hands-on experiences that can change the professional trajectory of their lives. For example, their culinary program includes a café, kitchen, front/back of the house training, and more. Programs are available for both middle and high school students. There are 54 teachers, 30 programs of study, 140 courses, and 16 magnet academies. Industry Certificates, via the Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Act, are available which allow students to earn college credits with funding

reinvested in the program if 80% of participants receive their certification. There are minimum qualifications for students to remain in programs, but the school can waive the requirements on a case-by-case basis. There will be an incredible demand for trade skills to get them prepared and certified in the coming years. For example, there is currently a demand for 18,000 heavy diesel mechanics in the next seven years. A Magnet Showcase will be held at the Alachua County Sports & Events Center on Nov. 16 from 10 am -1 pm for elementary, middle, and high school students.

Mr. McLendon stated that he is looking at proposing changes to the EDAC Resolution to provide several Ex-Officio positions.

4.2 Eco Loop Review

There are between 700-800 tons of waste transferred out of Alachua County daily. Before materials enter our waste stream, the County is attempting to attract companies to the Eco Loop that reuse items such as plastics and metals and convert them into other usable materials. Multiple industries have expressed interest. Recently, Sunshine Organics (composting facility) fell through because of the FAA had concerns. The consensus was to recommend the County Commission consider any allowable business opportunities and refuse "dirty" industries like incinerator or chemical type plants, unless technology evolves in which case it can be reconsidered. This will be discussed at the October 24 meeting.

4.3 Draft Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments Report

The DRAFT Work Plan and Accomplishments was presented for review. This will be added to the October 24 agenda for formal approval.

5. Member Comments

Mr. McLendon reported that Sr. Staff Assistant, Triston Jefferson, has resigned. He will be missed!

The 301 Corridor Study kickoff meeting is scheduled for October 24.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.