

**Economic & Community Development Council Committee  
Minutes**

**Thursday, October 25, 2007**

**9:00 AM**

**Media Briefing Room**

**Members Present:** Councilmember Kevin Wolff, *District 9, Chair*  
Councilmember Sheila McNeil, *District 2*  
Councilmember Lourdes Galvan, *District 5*

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**Members Absent:** Councilmember Justin Rodriguez, *District 7*

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**Staff Present:** Pat DiGiovanni, *Deputy City Manager*; Robert Peche, *Economic Development Director*; Scott White, *Convention & Visitors Bureau Director*; Mike Sawaya, *Convention Sports & Entertainment Facilities Director*; Beth Costello, *International Affairs Director*; Robert Murdock, *Military Affairs Director*; Ed Davis, *Economic Development Assistant Director*; Reynaldo Cano, *International Affairs Assistant Director*; James Henderson, *Military Affairs Deputy Director*; Steve De La Haya, *CVB Assistant Director*; Ray Rodriguez, *Assistant City Attorney*; Jed Maebius, *Mayor's Office*; Nina Shealy, *Economic Development*; Lisa Lopez, *Office of the City Clerk*; Barbara Ankemah, *Economic Development*; Angela Gonzalez, *Economic Development*; Yonnie Blanchette, *City Manager's Office*; Krystal Strong, *City Manager's Office*; Thomas Marks, *District 9 Staff*; Paul Jimenez, *District 2 Staff*; Walter Ague, *District 7 Staff*; Emma Hersh, *District 5 Staff*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Also Present:** CJ Hager, *CVB Board*; Marco Barros, *Tourism Council*; Davis Phillips, *Phillips Entertainment*; Santiago Garcia, *WDC*; Ray Flores, *WDC*; Dennis Vollink, *Drury Southwest*; Kevin Whitfield, *Drury Southwest*; RB Pablos, *Drury Southwest*; Weston Marting, *ATBT*; Cyndy Hanson, *Brooks Development Authority*; Eddie Rojas, *Port SA*; Stephany Ramsey, *Port SA*; Mike Salerno, *The Boeing Company*; Verner Edlit, *Community*

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**Call to Order**

Chairman Wolff called the meeting to order.

**1. Citizens to be Heard**

There were no citizens to be heard.

**2. Approval of Minutes of the August 23, 2007 Economic and Community Development Committee Meeting**

Councilmember Galvan moved to approve, with corrections, the minutes of the August 23, 2007 Economic & Community Development Committee Meeting. Councilmember McNeil seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Consideration of possible board appointment recommendations to the Air Transportation Advisory Commission and the Visitors Commission**

Presented by Leticia Vacek, City Clerk

Leticia Vacek presented the At Large Board Appointees for consideration and recommendation to serve on the Air Transportation Advisory Commission and the Convention and Visitors Commission.

She reported that the number of Air Transportation Advisory Commission applicants/nominations received did not exceed the number of slots available; therefore, she recommended the Committee approve those applicants for appointment.

Councilmember McNeil moved to forward said recommendation to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Galvan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Vacek also reported that the number of Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) applicants/nominations received did not exceed the number of slots available for all but one category; as such, she recommended appointment of the applicants for appointment. She requested that the Committee make recommendations for the Northeast Sector and Northwest Sector sub-categories under the General Community Category where there were more than one applicant vying for one slot. She noted that one Northeast Sector applicant was present to be heard.

Davis Phillips, Phillips Entertainment, stated that he was on the Board of Directors of the San Antonio Tourism Counsel and Chairman of the Attractions Committee.

Regarding the Northwest Sector, Ms. Vacek stated that Ruby Perez was appointed by District 6 and that Councilmember Cibrian stated her support of C.J. Hagar for reappointment.

C.J. Hagar, small business owner, stated that she served on the Budget and Bylaws Committee and that she is seeking reappointment.

Councilmember McNeil moved to approve all applicants with no competition for appointment and to approve Phillip Davis for the Northeast Sector and Ruby Perez for the Northwest Sector. Councilmember Galvan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Resolution by the Empowerment Zone Development Corporation approving the issuance of up to \$18,100,000 in Empowerment Zone facility bonds for the Drury Inn Hotel project**

Presented by Robert Peche, Director, Economic Development Department

Robert Peche reported that the Drury Inn Plaza Project budget investment was \$77 million. He cited the utilization of \$39.9 million in EZ Bonds (\$21.9 million approved and issued in October 2005 and \$18 million requested). He noted that the Project would create 67 direct hotel jobs and 200 construction jobs over a two year period, and 120-160 potential jobs associated with the River level restaurant, bank and retail space. He added that the City had no liability in this transaction, no City funds would be used to secure EZ bonds and that the Empowerment Zone Development Corporation would receive \$20,000 in issuance fees.

Councilmember McNeil requested that staff to research ways to disburse the remaining capacity of Empowerment Zone funds to inner-city under privileged areas.

Councilmember McNeil moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Galvan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to contract for twelve months with Ramon Flores to serve as Executive Director for the Westside Development Corporation**  
Presented by Robert Peche, Director, Economic Development Department

Mr. Peche presented background information on the Westside Development Corporation (WDC) and detailed strategic priorities. He noted that Ramon Flores had served as WDC Executive Director under a professional services contract since November 2006. He added that Economic Development staff and WDC Board were requesting approval for \$96,000 to extend Mr. Flores' contract from November 2007 to October 2008.

Mr. Flores provided an update on WDC activities that included fundraising, sustainability, and proposed projects. He detailed negotiations regarding Crossroads Mercado, Old Fire Station #8, Protection Devises, Inc., Show White Cleaners, and de Maiz Tortilleria.

Councilmember Galvan moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember McNeil seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. International Affairs Update**  
Presented by Beth Costello, Director, International Affairs

Beth Costello informed the Committee that there had been an overwhelming number of visitors to San Antonio by global destinations that resulted from the promotion of the City as a global destination by community organizations. She noted that the International Affairs Department had programmed and hosted 65 delegations from 8 countries. She concluded with an overview of the September 21- 29, 2007 Trade Delegation to China lead by Mayor Hardberger and presented a brief itinerary of Mayor Hardberger's visit to Sister City Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico November 9-12, 2007.

**7. Office of Military Affairs Update**  
Presented by Robert Murdock, Director, Office of Military Affairs

Robert Murdock reported that the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission of 2005 directed Boswell and Callaghan Armed Forces Reserve Centers be moved to the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp

Bullis that would be ready for occupancy in November 2009. He noted that the facilities were subject for disposal and that Notices of Interest (NOI) were received for the Callaghan USARC.

Mr. Murdock stated that the Office of Military Affairs (OMA) would draft redevelopment plans for the two facilities, seek Council approval November 29, 2007 and submit plan recommendations to HUD and the US Army for consideration by December 21, 2007.

**8. Air force Development Incentive Program Enhancement**

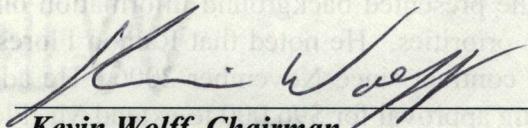
Presented by Mark Webb, Director, Aviation

Said item was not addressed.

**Adjournment**

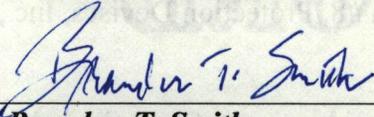
**There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.**

Copies of these presentations are made part of the file and are available upon request.



Kevin Wolff, Chairman

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Brandon T. Smith  
Administrative Assistant II  
Office of the City Clerk**