

Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation

Enterprise Zone Council

Minutes of Meeting of March 28, 2006

RIEDC; 4th Floor, Room 1

One West Exchange Place

Providence, RI 02903

Attendance:

Name Affiliation

Ron Caniglia (Council Member)

Bill Parsons (Chairman's Designee)

Dan Varin (Council Member)

Michael Wood (Council Member)

Victor Barros (EDC Staff)

Sheri Carrera (EDC Staff)

Bill Clark (Portsmouth Enterprise Zone)

Kathy Cosentino (Providence Enterprise Zone)

Alan Crisman (Mt. Hope Enterprise Zone)

Kathi Flanagan (EDC Staff)

Paul Fournier (EDC Staff)

Michelle M. Godin (Needs, Inc.)

Carmen Lorenzo (EDC Staff)

Louis Soares (EDC Staff)

Rosalind Reid (EDC Staff)

Bruce Vild (Statewide Planning)

Vice Chairman Varin called the meeting to order at approximately 10:08 a.m.

The first item of business before the Council was consideration of the minutes.

Mr. Varin asked the Council to consider the minutes from the February 28, 2006 meeting of the Council.

Mr. Parsons moved approval of the minutes, Mr. Caniglia seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the minutes were then unanimously approved.

Next Mr. Varin asked the Council to consider the minutes from the March 14, 2006 meeting which were not included in the agenda package but distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Vild noticed a typographically error concerning Paul Fournier's affiliation. The correction was noted.

Mr. Wood moved approval of the minutes, Mr. Caniglia seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the minutes were then

unanimously approved

The second item of business before the Council was consideration of the 2006 Recommendations for Membership list.

Mr. Barros noted that the two (2) businesses being presented for membership had completed applications, been approved by the local point of contact...and stated that staff recommended approval of both companies.”

Mr. Wood asked a question about the landscaping company in the Mt. Hope Enterprise Zone, which Mr. Crisman addressed by providing some general information about the company and briefly discussed the seasonality of their work.

Mr. Vild asked about the job growth potential. Mr. Crisman stated that he expected the company to add some permanent jobs that will be reflected on their 2006 year-end certification request.

The third item of business before the Council was consideration of the 2005 Certification list.

Mr. Varin pointed out that a revised list was distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Barros stated that forty seven (47) businesses were being recommended for 2005 certification. He noted, “All of these

businesses have completed the year-end certification package, have honored the requirements of the year-end certification. He mentioned the names of the eight (8) businesses added to the revised report and stated that Staff would recommend approval of all forty seven (47) companies on the revised report.”

Mr. Parson asked about USG Corporation in the Pawtucket/Lincoln EZ. Ms. Godin responded, stating that the company is called Urban Smart Growth and located in the former Sherwood Brands Building.

Mr. Wood asked about Bananto, Inc. Mr. Barros was not familiar with the company but stated that he would provide information at the next meeting.

Mr. Caniglia recused himself with regard to Schectman, Halprin & Savage LLP and Gorman Roofing. Mr. Wood moved approval of the certification list, Mr. Parson seconded and the motion was unanimously approved with Mr. Caniglia recusal noted .

The fourth item of business before the Council was consideration of the 2004 Carry-Forward Authorization list.

Mr. Barros noted there were four (4) companies applying for a Carry-Forward Authorization. Mr. Barros noted that the important factor in what’s reported on the form in front of you is that the employment benchmark is maintained the letters of good standing

are satisfied and staff would recommend approval of all four (4) companies.

Mr. Caniglia recused himself with regard to Gorman Roofing. Mr. Parson moved approval of the carry forward list, Mr. Parson seconded and the motion was unanimously approved with Mr. Caniglia recusal was noted

Under old business, Mr. Varin directed the Council's attention to the legislation that was included in the agenda package 2006 House Bill 7635. A general discussion ensued about the West Warwick expansion. Mr. Varin asked about the other enterprise zone program expansions in Richmond and Newport. Mr. Barros stated that there was no new news to report but he would follow up with both municipalities.

Mr. Varin asked if there was any other old business to be discussed. Mr. Barros added that work was continuing on the year-end job and wage report and distributed the wage and job report for companies certified by the Council on March 14, 2006. A general discussion ensued where Mr. Barros discussed future job and wage reports, subsequent zone rankings and comparisons, and marketing and outreach to general assembly and other interested parties. Mr. Barros explained that the staff was in the process of converting EZ data to a new database, Access, which would streamline reporting and provide better and more timely information.

Mr. Vild spoke about the appropriateness of utilizing state wage information available from DLT. A brief discussion ensued that addressed how useful that information would be for comparative purposes with EZ related wage data.

Under new business, Mr. Wood asked a question about voting vs. nonvoting members and what would happen in the case of tie vote. Mr. Barros stated that there were only 5 voting members, others at the table are non-voting support staff, local points of contact and governmental officials. Mr. Parson questioned whether the Chairman votes on every item or only in the case of a tie. Mr. Varin stated that he has always voted on each agenda item.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mr. Parsons move to adjourn, Mr. Wood seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.