

**Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation**

**Enterprise Zone Council**

**Minutes of Meeting of December 20, 2011**

**RIEDC: Providence Room**

**315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101**

**Providence, RI 02908**

**In attendance:**

**COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

**M. Wood RI League of Cities and Towns**

**R. Caniglia The Stand Corporation**

**B. Parsons RIEDC**

**OTHER AFFILIATION**

**V. Barros RIEDC**

**J. Garrahy Moses & Afonso, LTD**

**M. Wojcik City of Woonsocket**

**F. Presely City of West Warwick**

**A. Crisman Mt. Hope EZ**

**L. DiBoni Cranston**

**J. Moran City of East Providence**

**W. Clark Town of Portsmouth**

**M. Godin NEEDS, Inc.**

**A. Gibbs RIEDC**

**At 10:04 Mr. Barros called the meeting the Rhode Island Enterprise Zone Council to order and noted that there was a quorum present. He also noted that in the absence of vice chairman Varin he would facilitate the meeting but would have no voting power or authority.**

**The first item of business before the Council were the Meeting Minutes for September 27, 2011**

**Mr. Barros asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 27th. Mr. Parsons made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Caniglia. Mr. Barros asked if there were any additional comments or questions.**

**Ms. Godin stated that she was at the September meeting but not listed as attending in the minutes.**

**Mr. Barros noted the oversight and agreed to amend the minutes to reflect her being in attendance. With no other questions or comments, all voted in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**The next item of business before the Council were the Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2011**

**Mr. Barros asked for a motion to approve the minutes of October 25th. Mr. Wood made the motion which was seconded by Mr.**

**Caniglia. Mr. Barros asked if there were any additional comments or questions. There being none, all voted in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**The next item of business before the Council was a 2011 Recommendations for Membership.**

**Mr. Barros stated that there were three (3) businesses being presented for 2011 membership, all three businesses submitted complete membership applications. The applications were reviewed by the appropriate local point of contact and by EDC staff; as a result, staff recommended for approval of the applications bring the year-to-date total to eleven (11) new EZ member businesses for 2011.**

**Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the 2011 recommendations for membership. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caniglia. Mr. Varin asked if there were any additional comments or questions.**

**Mr. Parsons asked if the computer software company from the Portsmouth zone (A2B Tracking Solutions) was a new or existing business with 25 employees.**

**Mr. Clark stated that it was an existing business that was previously enrolled in the program. When he first met with the company they had 7 employees; the business has steadily grown through its aggressive solicitation of government contracts.**

**Mr. Parsons added that they are a c-corp. which means they will still be able to take advantage of the EZ tax credits unlike the s-corps and others.**

**There being no further discussion, all voted in favor and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**The next order of business before the Council was an Update on Enterprise Zone Re-designation**

**Mr. Barros reviewed the zones and associated census tracts that are under re-designation consideration. He explained why some zones contained more than 5 contiguous census tracts.**

**He talked about how census tract 1 in Providence, as a result of the 2000 census, was split into two separate census tracts 1.01 and 1.02. In order to comply with the 5 contiguous census tract rule, the city had to choose between the two census tracts and decided that census tract 1.01 would be the tract to be included in their 2011 re-designation request.**

**Mr. Parsons asked how many businesses were in the other census tract (1.02) which will be excluded from the Providence EZ after the re-designation.**

**M. Barros said that he wasn't sure but that Thom Deller chose tract 1.01 because of its higher concentration of businesses, tract 1.02 is mostly residential in nature.**

**A general discussion ensued about the impact of this census tract decision on the Providence EZ and the forthcoming re-designation.**

**Mr. Barros highlighted the Port of Providence/Cranston as an example of a zone exceeding the 5 contiguous census tract rule. He explained that census tracts 141, 136, 17.01, and 138 in the city of Cranston were all added subsequent to the original zone designation through separate pieces of legislations.**

**The next order of business before the Council was any Old or New Business**

**Mr. Barros asked if there was any other business to come before the Council.**

**Mr. Clark asked if there was any further news regarding the EDC Board sub-committee recommendations, specifically regarding the recommendation to reinstate the EZ tax credit as a eligible credit against Rhode Island personal income tax.**

**Mr. Barros said that he wasn't certain that specific recommendation would be adopted but he would find out and report back to the**

**Council in January.**

**There being no other business Mr. Barros asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wood made the motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parsons. Mr. Barros asked if there was any further business to come before the Council. There being none, all voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**