

Economic Development Planning Council
November 20, 2015
12:09-1:57 p.m.
315 Iron Horse Way
Providence

Present

1. Barbara Schoenfeld
2. Bob Mancini
3. Cliff Grimm
4. Elizabeth Lynn
5. John Simmons
6. Juana Horton
7. Laurie White
8. Michael DiBiase
9. Michael Sabitoni
10. Neil Steinberg
11. Richard Horan
12. Russell Carey
13. Stefan Pryor (chair)

Absent

1. Dale Venturini
2. David Sullivan
3. Donald Grebien
4. James Purcell
5. John Kennedy
6. Ken Wagner
7. Macky McCleary
8. Peter Alviti
9. Scott Jensen

Minutes

- Secretary Pryor introduced the meeting and gave an overview of the economic strategy process to date, emphasizing the importance of including a wide variety of stakeholders and explaining how the target industries identified by this work would inform both the recently introduced package of economic development programs and new potential policies that would be discussed at the following meeting.
- Mark Muro, Senior Fellow and Policy Director for the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings, provided an overview of the Rhode Island economy and Brookings' analytic approach, which employs data analytics, traditional cluster analyses, and expert opinions to map the key industries primed for growth. He then presented a tentative list of target industries:
 - Design, materials, and manufacturing
 - Cyber, software, data, and defense
 - Shipbuilding and maritime
 - Advanced business services
 - Biomedical innovation
 - Arts, education, hospitality, and tourism

- Transportation and logistics
- Committee members offered some of the following questions and comments following Brookings' presentation:
 - What is the significance of Rhode Island's lack of a single big anchor industry?
 - How does the structure of Rhode Island's economy resemble other Northeastern states?
 - What are the blind spots of this methodology?
 - Where is Rhode Island strongest in biomedical innovation and what are the key jobs drivers?
 - How can we collaborate more with Brown and other universities?
 - How do we capture market share in business services in the Boston region?
 - How can we improve the competitiveness of our talent?
 - How can we keep adding value in design and materials? How can transportation contribute to this?
 - Where does food fit into these sectors? And defense?
 - To what extent is real estate a limiting factor?