



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

November 13, 2024, at 3:00 PM

[www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/edab)

Meeting Minutes

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Michael Stara, Chair	A	13	3
Enrique Bargioni, Vice Chair	P	3	1
Jay Adams	P	8	1
William Feinberg	P	15	1
Russ Klenet	P	7	3
Mark Giarratano	A	6	3
Nicolas Kollias	P	6	2
Marianna S. DeJager	P	6	1
Latasha Gorman	A	3	1

**Staff**

Von Howard, Administrative Supervisor (Not Present)  
 Daphnee Sainvil, Public Affairs Division Manager (Not Present)  
 Ashley Dixon, Management Analyst (Present)  
 Melissa Mata, Management Fellow (Present)

**I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum**

With Chair Stara not being present at the meeting, Vice Chair, Enrique Bargioni called the meeting to order at 3:09 PM. Roll call was issued, and it was noted that quorum was established.

Chair Stara was not present, Vice Chair Bargioni presided over the meeting. The quorum was established at 3:09 PM.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Vice Chair, Enrique Bargioni, carried out a motion to approve the EDAB Minutes from the meeting that took place on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. Motion moved by Member DeJager and seconded by Member Feinberg. Motion passed; EDAB Minutes were approved at 3:09 PM.

**III. Approval of EDAB 2025 Meeting Dates**

The agenda began with the approval of meeting dates for 2025. The Economic Development Advisory Board meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 3:00pm. Board members had no discussion about changing the time or meeting dates for 2025. Vice Chair Bargioni placed a motion to approve the meeting dates for 2025. Member DeJager called the first motion and Member Feinberg seconded. The meeting dates will be sent to the Clerk’s office to secure meeting space.

**IV. Location of Meetings for 2025 Meeting Dates**

The board moved onto the next item. Members had no discussion or questions about meeting

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locations. Vice Chair Bargioni made a motion to approve the Development Services Department building as their meeting location for the meeting dates of 2025. Member DeJager called the first motion and Member Feinberg seconded.

**V. New Business**

With no other item of discussion on the agenda, the Board opened the floor for discussion on items outside of the agenda. Vice Chair Bargioni suggested discussing potential priorities the Board can focus on in 2025. Vice Chair asked members to mention up to three priorities they would like to discuss during the December meeting.

Member Adams initiated the discussion with assisting small businesses and facilitating the process of permits. Key issues included parking requirements, prolonged Development Review Committee processes lasting over a year, high costs for stormwater retention and elevation, and the feasibility of developing properties up to 10,000 square feet. Additionally, zoning changes and water management were cited as high-cost challenges, alongside difficulties in hiring engineers for small-scale projects. To address business assistance concerns regarding parking, Member Adams proposed inviting a staff member from Planning and Zoning (P&Z) for the meeting in December or January to speak about city parking to support the client traffic for small businesses.

Member Klenet continued the discussion by emphasizing the city's challenges with negative migration due to housing affordability, noting that less than 5% of residents can afford median-priced condos or homes in the city. He pointed out that the city's high condo prices, combined with unaffordable renovation costs and rising housing expenses, contribute to these issues. Member Klenet recommended exploring measures such as eliminating school board mitigation fees to encourage more housing options. Member Klenet urged the board to identify actionable solutions to present to the city commission for recommendation.

Member Feinberg proposed city assistance for small businesses in navigating requirements like parking codes and permits, while also addressing broader issues like housing affordability and transportation. The members drafted a list of potential priorities which include:

- Small business assistance on business requirements and parking-code permits.
- Cost of housing; transportation issues regarding parking.
- Walkability in high traffic areas.
- Unhoused individuals in the Downtown area of the city.

An email will be sent to the board members with the list of potential priorities with the opportunity to send additional priorities for the December meeting.

Additionally, during the discussion of EDAB's 2025 priorities, city liaison, Melissa Mata, showed



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### **Meeting Minutes**

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members Ordinance C-12-11, Section 1, subsection C, which states the purpose and duties of the Economic Development Board. Member DeJager read point 4 of the subsection stating "...the board shall recommend funding allocations to organizations which will complement the City's promotional efforts based upon a budget provided to the Board by the City Commission."

Member DeJager requested to know if a budget was available for the board. Member DeJager suggested to the board to pause any speakers or set priorities before knowing if a budget is available for the Board to recommend to the City Commission the allocation of funding to organizations to complement the City's promotional efforts. Members agreed to continue the discussion of priorities in the December meeting and will send any additional priorities to City Liaison, Melissa Mata.

#### **VI. Areas of Concentration**

There were no updates on the areas of concentration.

#### **VII. Division Reports**

There were no Division reports.

#### **VIII. Meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM.**

**The next EDAB meeting will be December 11, 2024, at DSD Building.**

*Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.*