

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
October 30, 2018**

The Highlands County Industrial Development Authority meeting was held in the Engineering Training Room at 505 S. Commerce Ave., in Sebring, on Tuesday, October 30, 2017. Chair Janet Barber presided over the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Highlands County Industrial Development Authority (IDA)

The October 30, 2018 Industrial Development Authority Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 7:32 a.m.

2. CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Name	Title	Organization	Present
Janet Barber	Chair		Y
Ray Royce	Vice Chair	Highlands County IDA/EDC	Y
Carol Howard	Past Chair	Executive Committee	Y
Wade Taveniere	Secretary/Treasurer		Y
Tom Koppein	Director		N
Donna Doubleday	Director		Y
Paul Koukos	Director		Y
Thomas Leitzel	Director		Y
John Shoop	Director		Y
Tim Texley	Director	Highlands County IDA/EDC Board of Directors	Y
John Varady	Director		N
Craig Johnson	Director		N
Jim Renfro	Director		Y
Jason Kimbrell	Director		Y
Randy Surber	Director		Y
James Brooks	Commissioner, Liaison		Y
Benjamin Dunn	Dev. Services Director	Highlands County Board of County	Y
Taylor Benson	Manager	Commissioners - Development Services	Y
Meghan DiGiacomo	Manager		Y
Dana Riddell	Planning Technician		Y
Michael Noel		Small Business Development Center	Y
Nancy Blum-Heintz	Representatives of Outside	VisionFirst Advisors	Y
Griff Salmon	Organizations	VisionFirst Advisors	Y

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Griff Salmon and Nancy Blum-Heintz presented Phase I of the Strategic Plan for Economic Development in Highlands County. Data from the public survey was reviewed and key takeaways were noted. Highlands County had an unprecedented number of responses, with almost 1,000 surveys submitted. VisionFirst identified one of the greatest challenges faced by Highlands County as the lack of sites available with existing infrastructure and the difficulty to quickly obtain information regarding the cost and time required to extend infrastructure. Another element that was discussed is the misalignment between perceptions of the public and government officials versus reality. 98% of those surveyed, wanted to see commercial or industrial growth in Highlands County to some degree, which contradicted the common belief that residents do not want to see growth. Additionally, individuals compare Highlands County to Polk County due to their

close proximity, however Polk County should not be used as a comparison due to their differing economy. Polk County has approximately, 20 individuals serving their Economic Development Division, whereas, Highlands county has 2. VisionFirst Advisors recommend that Highland's County hires a third individual on the Economic Development team to act as a liaison between training and learning facilities and employers. Carol Howard requested literature, or samples, from other municipalities throughout the state as examples of how they have implemented similar strategic plans.

7. ADJOURNMENT – IDA

The October 30, 2018 IDA Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Next Meeting: 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 12, 2018
Highlands County Engineering Training Room – Second Floor
505 South Commerce Ave.
Sebring, FL 33870

Minutes developed by: Dana Riddell, Planning Technician
Approval date: December 12, 2018

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION /
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES**

October 30, 2018

The Economic Development Commission for Highlands County (EDC) / Economic Development Organization's (EDO) Board of Directors meeting was held in the Engineering Training Room at 505 S. Commerce Ave., in Sebring, on Tuesday, October 30, 2017. Chair Janet Barber presided over the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Highlands County Economic Development

Commission (EDC) / Economic Development Organization (EDO)

The October 30, 2018 Economic Development Commission / Economic Development Organization board meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Name	Title	Organization	Present
Janet Barber	Chair		Y
Ray Royce	Vice Chair	Highlands County IDA/EDC	Y
Carol Howard	Past Chair	Executive Committee	Y
Wade Taveniere	Secretary/Treasurer		Y
Tom Koppein	Director		N
Donna Doubleday	Director		Y
Paul Koukos	Director		Y
Thomas Leitzel	Director		Y
John Shoop	Director		Y
Tim Texley	Director	Highlands County IDA/EDC Board of Directors	Y
John Varady	Director		N
Craig Johnson	Director		N
Jim Renfro	Director		Y
Jason Kimbrell	Director		Y
Randy Surber	Director		Y
James Brooks	Commissioner, Liaison		Y
Benjamin Dunn	Dev. Services Director		Y
Taylor Benson	Manager	Highlands County Board of County	Y
Meghan DiGiacomo	Manager	Commissioners - Development Services	Y
Dana Riddell	Planning Technician		Y
Michael Noel	Representatives of Outside	Small Business Development Center	Y
Nancy Blum-Heintz	Organizations	VisionFirst Advisors	Y
Griff Salmon		VisionFirst Advisors	Y

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Taylor Benson presented the request from the Sebring Airport for Economic Development to sponsor a breakfast at the 2019 U.S. Sport Aviation Expo. Although two options for sponsorship were originally provided to Economic Development in the amounts of \$1,500 or \$2,500, the airport has agreed to accept a sponsorship in the amount of \$900, for the same breakfast that was provided the year prior by Economic Development. Ray Royce made a motion to allow Economic Development to spend up to \$1,000 for sponsorship at the U.S. Sport Aviation Expo.

4. ADJOURNMENT – EDC/EDO

The October 30, 2018 EDC/EDO Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Next Meeting: 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 12, 2018
Highlands County Engineering Training Room – Second Floor
505 South Commerce Ave.
Sebring, FL 33870

Minutes developed by: Rachel Barry, Zoning Clerk
Approval date: December 12, 2018