

**City of DeBary**  
**Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**THURSDAY**  
**March 20, 2008**  
**7:00 PM**

Florence K. Little Town Hall  
12 Colomba Road      DeBary, Florida 32713

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Kitner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Chairman Don Kitner, Vice Chairman Joe Alemany, Mark Meister, Chris Yacenda, Val Emerson, Rich Gunter and Helene Leininger (alternate member)

Absent: Sid Vihlen, Jr.

Also Present: City Manager Maryann Courson and Volusia County Director of Economic Development Rick Michael

Chairman Kitner asked everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the newly appointed members.

Vice Chair Alemany moved to retain Don Kitner as Chair of the Committee. Mr. Meister seconded. Mr. Yacenda suggested that Joe Alemany serve as Vice Chair again if no other members were interested. Mr. Meister seconded.

Chairman Kitner asked for a vote to retain himself and Mr. Alemany as Chair and Vice Chair. The members unanimously approved.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- Meeting of December 20, 2007

Mr. Gunter moved to approve the minutes, and Vice Chairman Alemany seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Old Business**

- Discussion of Strategic Plan

This item was postponed.

## 5. New Business

- Opt Out of Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Ms. Courson explained the Community Development Block Grant Program to the members. She stated that the City is limited to using funds for handicap improvements at public facilities; that the City is at its three-year term, and there is an opportunity to opt out of the County program; that if it does opt out, then the City would become eligible for the small cities program at the State level, which provides for a wide variety of activities; and that she is requesting the Committee make a recommendation on it to Council.

Rick Michael, Director of Volusia County Economic Development, addressed the Committee regarding CDBG. He stated that the funding originates from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development; that the entitlement areas are for populations exceeding 250,000; that DeBary's allocation is based on population; and that the City normally averages between \$55,000 to \$60,000 per year.

Mr. Michael explained what would happen if DeBary opted out of the entitlement program administered by Volusia County. He spoke about the pros and cons of opting out of the County's program; that there is up to \$750,000 available to DeBary for the small cities program; but that the City would need to have an economic development project to drive the application.

Mr. Gunter said he preferred to receive the guaranteed funding from the County instead of competing. Mr. Michael explained that the census tracts determine CDBG eligibility as to low and moderate-income residents. He clarified that the City could do multiple economic development projects at the same time under the small cities program, and low-income requirements would have nothing to do with the City's eligibility under that program.

Mr. Yacenda asked how the applications are judged. Mr. Michael responded that it is a first-come first-serve basis, and the cities that apply first get funded first. He stated that there is a pool of consultants that generally do not charge to do the application, but expect to receive the administration dollars if the application is funded.

Ms. Emerson asked what the total amount of available funding is statewide. Mr. Michael answered that it is typically from six to eight million dollars.

Mr. Gunter asked if the City could get back in to the County's program in the future if they opted out now. Mr. Michael replied that there is a method for returning to the program.

Mr. Meister said that because of the commuter rail station, the City might be in a better position for future State funding.

Ms. Courson explained that the County takes their administration dollars off the top before they divide the remainder up between the cities.

Ms. Emerson asked how many cities applied last year for the small cities economic development program and how much was left in surplus funding.

Ms. Courson said she would do the research to get answers for the Committee so they could provide a recommendation to Council at the May meeting.

Mr. Yacenda made a motion to hold a special meeting when Ms. Courson has received the information from the State. Mr. Gunter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Other Business by Board, Staff or the Public**

None.

**7. Adjournment**

Chairman Kitner announced the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**APPROVED April 22, 2008  
CITY OF DeBARY  
Economic Development Advisory Committee**

**Chairman Don Kitner**