



City of Rio Communities Council Special Workshop With Economic Development Commission

City Council Chambers - 360 Rio Communities Blvd
Rio Communities, NM 87002

Monday, December 13, 2021 10:00 AM

Minutes

Please silence all electronic devices.

Call to Order

- Mayor Pro Tem Joshua Ramsell called to order the special workshop at 10:03.

Attendees

- PRESENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Joshua Ramsell, Councilor Robert Chavez, Councilor Peggy Gutjahr, Councilor Jim Winters, EDC Vice Chairman Loedi Silva, Member Frank Logan. Present: City Manager Dr. Martin Moore, Municipal Clerk Lisa Adair, Economic Consultant Ralph Mimms.

Presentation: Albuquerque Economic Development - Danielle Casey, President

- Danielle Casey started her presentation on Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance (AREA), they are getting ready to go from a 501c6 to 501c3 which is a charitable non-profit organization starting January, also moving to (AREA) will create opportunities and pathways for advisory Councils. She went on by saying she has been inviting anyone who has an economic role from our community to join a meeting once a month. She continued with example roles of partner agencies starting with state, then regional and then local partners. She then said there are a lot of factors for the Strategic Plan and if you would like to learn more feel free to go to the website, www.abq.org/2021strategy. She also explained that there is a website (www.abqsites.com) that people can go on and look for property around New Mexico as well as another website (www.abq.org/sizeup) that lets businesses find property for sale next to other businesses and lets them choose where they would like to be placed. More importantly, a website that lets people know what jobs are hiring without ads (www.abq.org/jobs/)
- Councilor Gutjahr said this was very informative and much more up to date.
- Ralph Mimms asked what is the basic information needed from Rio Communities.
- Danielle explained understanding your preferred contact will be for economic projects, summary about the community and any facts about Rio Communities as well as local photos will be great.
- Ralph Mimms invites Mrs. Casey and her staff to come down to Rio Communities sometime in January or February to look at the assets Rio Communities has to offer. And a discussion started.

Economic Development Commission Strategic Planning

- Manager Dr. Moore said there has been a request from the committee on the direction for where we want to go with EDC due to the EDC having a part in the city.

- Councilor Winters said it is obvious that we are restructuring our look at the economic development, how do we move forward without conflict.
- Councilor Gutjahr asked how would this facilitate in January, as in having a session.
- Manager Dr. Moore said his recommendation is to have the members that are retiring to help until someone else is hired, suggestion if AREA be willing to come down and talk about LEDA plus also have a recommendation on how to move forward.
- Councilor Gutjahr said we are restructuring but feels once we have the strategic plan in place all questions and organization would be easier to follow.
- Mayor Pro tem Ramsell said speaking of LEDA we do not have a specific spoke person for the city and maybe with RCAN, since they are a non-profit, they are not restrained to an open meetings act.
- Manager Dr. Moore said our goal will be to have an outline before the meeting.
- Vice Chair Silva said how can the commission assist Ralph, growing the commission as well we need to get new members.
- Frank Logan said with him not wanting to go for another term but will still be involved, and he can be the RCAN representative, strictly volunteer, but hopefully at least to add 4 members that way they have a commission and continued the discussion.
- Councilor Winters said this would be a perfect time to get new commissioners and feel very strongly we need a businesspersons perspective.
- Manager Dr. Moore suggested one of the questions framed is, where EDC going since short of members and recommend to commission and council to formally suspend the agenda meetings of the EDC but still have EDC working with RCAN and strategic planning and began a discussion.
- Councilor Chavez said it is interesting he had a couple of people wanting to get involved not just with planning and zoning but with EDC as well. He then asked who do I direct them to and continued with the discussion.
- Councilor Gutjahr clarified given where we are with this, this is influx, she thinks when they ask to be on EDC they need to understand we are in the process of direction, asking if they want to be part of strategic planning or help form it, and continued with the discussion.
- Manager Dr. Moore said another recommendation would be to have an “open period” of the job description say like, hey this is what you would be doing and continued with the discussion
- Loedi stated there is a luncheon on January 13.
- Manager DR. Moore recommend having a stakeholder planning meeting and began a discussion.

Adjourn

- The special workshop was adjourned at 10:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth (Lisa) Adair, Municipal Clerk
(Transcribed by Cheyenne Sullivan, Assistant Clerk)

Date: _____

Approved:

Joshua Ramsell,
Mayor

Arthur (Art) Apodaca,
Councilor

Lawrence Gordon,
Councilor

Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr,
Councilor

Jim Winters,
Councilor