



Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes - February 22, 2005

Attendees: F. Aiken, W. Borton, K. Howell-Ikeda, T. Mulligan, L. Nagy, H. Reeves, J. Schweppenheiser, M. Shourds, M. Willmann, S. Walton

The meeting was opened by Mr. Shourds by making a round of introductions. The minutes from the January 25th meeting were reviewed. It was noted that Mr. Willmann's name was misspelled in January's minutes.

Mr. Shourds spoke about the survey that was distributed at the January meeting. Ms. Howell-Ikeda distributed the survey summary to the group. The results give issues to select for discussion.

The Economic Outlook Panel was discussed. This committee is a great venue for dissemination of information for the County. We discussed focusing on Business Retention in the county.

Mr. Reeves was thinking of a yearly event not just with information from the Freeholders but to put together forecasting of economic trends with the focus on the region. However, Ms. Howell-Ikeda stated that other chambers hold this type of event and we don't want to duplicate what is already being done.

There was interest from the committee to be ambassadors for the county as they solicit new businesses. Ms. Howell-Ikeda will contact Mr. Remsa to discuss a plan.

This committee should refocus its efforts and a good way to do this is with seminars and speakers.

Mr. Reeves stated that speakers for the committee is good, but we need to forward the information to the general membership.

Ideas for the seminar are:

1. Ft.Dix and Maguire AFB
2. The local Economic Forecast
3. Land Use (smart growth, Pinelands, Route 130)

Mr. Schweppenheiser feels that we must formulate a direction to be most effective and that each seminar should have its own chair. The earliest we are looking at for an event is June of this year.

Another idea is the Business Outlook Series for seminars and divide them into segments of 5 or 7 minutes each segment with a speaker knowledgeable on their topic. Another idea brought up by Mr. Mulligan is a year-end forecasting review. Mr. Willmann spoke of a possible mid-year capsule of the county to become a standard for the Chamber's Committee.

The county statistics are generally ready for distribution in late February or March, so a Spring Panel (beginning in 2006) could work very well.

We will hold a Seminar on June 22, 2005. We will then have more time to prepare a presentation. Mr. Willmann, Mr. Shourds and Mr. Mulligan volunteered their time to make this happen.

The Committee agreed on the following outline for the Business Perspective Seminar Series:

1. County Trends by Region – June
2. Land Use / Smart Growth – Fall
3. Preview/Review – March 2006

Volunteers are still needed for the April 7, 2005 Mayor's Forum. Contact Ms.Howell-Ikeda to sign up.

Ms Howell-Ikeda is trying to hold our next Economic Development Committee meeting Maguire AFB next month. We would forego most of the meeting agenda in order to tour the Base. Everyone will be notified by email when she has more information .

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 22, 2005.

Submitted by:
Susan L. Walton