

Town of Miami Lakes

Economic Development Committee

June 25, 2020

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:07PM by Committee chair, Eddie Blanco. He directed Co-Chair, Neill Robinson to conduct the meeting's discussions in view of the upcoming Mayoral Debate.
2. Roll Call: Vicente Rodriguez, Tony Lopez, Ed Pidermann, Jessica Medina, Jose Llano, Clarisell de Cardenas, Magaly Rubio, Alex Castro, Neill Robinson (Co-chair), Andrea Rechichi, Rodolfo Blanco, Willie Sanchez, Eddie Blanco (Chair), German Cure, John Tingle (Secretary).
3. Public Comments/ Deletions: None
4. Old Business: In view of Covid-19, our regular agenda items are going to be addressed at a later time.
5. New Business:
  - The discussions were centered on the recent subcommittee meetings which were aimed at identifying key elements of the upcoming debates. Neill wished to start off by saying that the candidates would prefer to have the session in person, which was subsequently approved by the EDC members. Several candidates did not wish to have the Zoom meetings from their homes or offices due to possible technical issues which could easily develop during the session.
  - Location. Ed Pidermann suggested that the Town Hall would be suitable in view of the media facilities available and general accommodations and its identity with the Town itself. Alternatively, Vicente suggested the Ana Mendez University facilities could be used as they have the ability to accommodate up to 20 people, being divided into 2 rooms and complete media facilities would be available for the event. Being a private facility, Vicente indicated it would conform more easily to the Covid requirements. Neill wished to make a motion to go ahead with the Zoom meeting in person which was seconded by Jose. Discussion followed and various members of the committee including Andrea, Jose, Magaly, John, and Jessica wished that the event take place actually within the boundaries of Miami Lakes. An amendment was proposed by Andrea to Neill's motion to include having the event inside the boundaries of Miami Lakes as well. Motion was passed unanimously. The event is scheduled for July 16, 2020 at 11:00AM, duration is 1 hour. Final decision for the location will be decided shortly after this meeting by the Town manager and announced in due course.
  - Candidates/Moderator: Willie confirmed that Ambrosio Hernandez will be the moderator and 7 candidates will be invited to participate. Invitations will be going out shortly (3 have already confirmed according to Eddie). Media will be alerted as to the requirements for attending including where they may stand (inside or outside) and availability to interview candidates before or after the debate. To lessen the number of media personnel, perhaps a pool camera network can be set in motion. Clarisell, due to her experience in this area, was asked to contact the media team and explain the details for the event.

- Questions and format: Discussion took place as to content of the questions to be presented as well as the emphasis, i.e. more slanted towards North West Dade (inc. Miami Lakes) or to more county wide issues. Also who should present the questions, i.e. just EDC members, residents/public or a combination? Alex suggested that perhaps one group ask 25% of the questions and the other group 75% as part of the motion. Andrea requested a motion to use a hybrid form of presentation including questions both from EDC members as well as residents. Neill seconded the motion. Further discussion ensued and it was pointed out that %s shouldn't be used. Questions will go directly to the moderator for his analysis and presentation to the candidates. An amendment was made to not use percentages. The original motion was voted on and all agreed to accept, with none opposing.

It was agreed that the EDC questions should be presented with the individuals name in view of Sunshine laws in force. Content may specify Miami Lakes related issues as well as generic county inquiries. Questions should not be circulated among EDC members as well, as clarified by Alex-- again to avoid conflict with Sunshine laws.

6. Motion to adjourn: Neill motioned to adjourn, Magaly seconded. Motion passed unanimously at 1:53 PM.