

Town of Miami Lakes

Economic Development Committee

September 9, 2020

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 4:04PM by Committee chair. Eddie Blanco
2. Roll Call: Eddie Blanco, Vicente Rodriguez, Romy Portuando Remoir, Alex Castro, Jorge Alvarez, Rudy Blanco, Andrea Rechichi, Jessica Medina, Neill Robinson, Steve Brimo, Magaly Rubio, John Tingle, William Sanchez.
3. Order of Business: Deferrals/Additions/Deletions: None.
4. Public Comments: None.
5. Approval of Minutes: Regular July 29, 2020. Andrea motioned to approve. Alex gave a 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was no discussion, motion was approved by all. Special Call Meeting: Neill motioned to approve; Romy gave a 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was no discussion. Motion was approved by all.
6. Old Business:
  - a. Bank United Education Series- Steve Brimo gave a summary of the events so far including this morning's webinar on HR/ health issues during the Covid 19 pandemic. His feedback has been positive thus far and Willie mentioned that there were already 400 views on today's event which is considered very well. Andrea mentioned that the partnership with the Bank is helping the EDC get the message out to help local businesses survive in this environment and, John, specifically cited the in-depth preparedness of today's participants. Steve mentioned that the next webinar will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month and will consist of 5 firms talking about today's working environment under Covid.
  - b. Miami Dade County restaurant Grant Move to appoint a committee member. Alex gave an update on the procedures necessary to obtain one of the grants, which after reviewing, seemed not too difficult to obtain. Of the \$35million earmarked for Miami Dade, some \$5million will go to FIU in partnership to help their specific interests. The rest will go to the county to help businesses/restaurants recover from the shutdowns. Grants will not be given to chained or franchised business, aiming more to the independent business owner. Items such as: rent, utilities, taxes, and mortgages are typical items to be covered under the grants. Eddie asked for a motion to be presented on how to proceed. Alex Castro moved to have the EDC direct the Town's staff to circulate links on the town's websites indicating where and how to obtain these grants and other financial assistance directly to local business, with a copy (list) of the firms to the EDC members. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve. Motion passed unanimously. Eddie asked for a group of volunteers to personalize this effort and phone directly to the businesses as suggested by Alex. Alex, Eddie, Steve, Jorge and Magaly agreed to volunteer. This later effort was put in motion form by Alex and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve. No discussion ensued and the motion passed unanimously.
  - c. Report to Council. Chairmen Eddie reported that all went well at the meeting and thanked EDC members for contributing to the success of the organization. The Council appreciated

the efforts put forth by the EDC members and wished all even greater success in the future.

- d. BTR Update. Willie mentioned that he was still putting together the updated version which will include names and phones of people to be contacted at each firm. Eddie mentioned that this effort has been around for some time and asked to have this new version soonest.

7. New Business:

- a. Scavenger Hunt. Andrea described several important aspects of this new endeavor for the EDC and how the group could approach the project. The aim is to get local businesses involved to promote their specialty which could even include such entities as parks and theaters as well. Family involvement is an essential aspect of the project and games can be varied in nature and cost about \$1000.00 each. Participation by other committees is possible also. Andrea's original motion was to create a sub-committee of 3-4 people to discuss in depth issues to be presented to the EDC. Eddie suggested that we first take a vote on the proposal to proceed with the scavenger hunt and establish a subcommittee to discuss costs and options i.e. paid out of EDC budget or perhaps the pop-up budget of the Town. That said, Andrea withdrew her original motion with a new motion, to establish a subcommittee to promote traffic for our local businesses, consisting of 3-4 people to present final plans for the appreciation of the EDC. Costs to be taken from Town's pop up budget. Romy 2<sup>nd</sup>. No discussion followed. Vote taken and all agreed to the motion. Volunteers are Vicente, Alex, Jessica, Romy and Andrea. Key ideas presented by Andrea, think out of the box, and include family activities where possible.

8. Announcements: none

9. Adjournment: Romy moved to adjourn, Neill 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Meeting closed at 3:55 PM

10. Next meeting to be advised.