

**CITY OF FREEPORT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

430 North Brazosport, Freeport, TX
Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

FEDC BOARD MEMBERS: Quorum Present

Directors:

Mingo Marquez	President	Absent
Josh Mitchell	Vice-President	
David McGinty	Secretary	
Sandra Loeza	Treasurer	
Shonda Marshall		
Ken Tyner		
George Matamoros		

Robert Johnson: Executive Director

Tim Kelty: City Manager

Chris Duncan: Attorney

Jerry Cain: Council Liaison

Kaytee Ellis: EDC Staff

I. Call to Order

Josh Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. A quorum was present. Mingo Marquez was absent.

II. Invocation and Pledge

Shonda Marshall led the invocation and Ken Tyner led the pledge.

III. Citizens Comments

There were no citizen comments.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approve Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2022

2. Approve Financials

3. Approve Invoices

David McGinty corrected the minutes for December 13, 2022. David McGinty said instead of “removed dirt” the minutes should state “pile created by.”

Shonda Marshall questioned the \$6000 invoice from the Alliance.

Kaytee Ellis stated the invoice amount is calculated by the city’s population and would send an email to the board showing services provided by the Alliance.

Sandra Loeza made a motion to approve the consent agenda. David McGinty seconded.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. Discussion & Action Items

1. Discuss and take possible action on partnership with Barcadia's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

George Matamoros called James McDonald to present this event to the board and asked Mr. McDonald if the road closures have been approved by the City.

James McDonald responded not at this time and said last year the event was confined to the park area only.

George Matamoros asked Mr. McDonald how he would proceed should the road closure be denied.

James McDonald stated he would continue with the event as it was held the year before and tape off the park area.

Ken Tyner asked James McDonald if he believed he could give away all 50,000 eggs.

James McDonald responded yes; he is hoping for 1000 plus children to attend. The previous year had over 300 and conflicted with other egg hunts in the area.

Robert Johnson asked if it was possible to track the number of attendees to better assess next year.

James McDonald responded yes.

Chris Duncan reminded the board that this expense would fall under "promotions" and has a limit of 10% of the total EDC budget. Chris Duncan suggested board members be actively involved by setting up a table or handing out water to further promote the EDC.

Shonda Marshall asked if the event would be advertised outside of Freeport.

James McDonald responded yes; he advertises in a 30-mile radius. James McDonald said he wanted to be clear that he is not trying to compete with the City's event; he is wanting to drive traffic downtown.

David McGinty made a motion to approve a \$3500 sponsorship to Barcadia's Annual Easter Egg Hunt George Matamoros seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Discuss and take possible action on partnership with Barcadia's Annual BikeFest

James McDonald said this event is his way of bringing back the Summertime Bike and Blues Festival previously hosted by the City. James McDonald said last year's event brought in 55 vendors and 10,000 attendees.

George Matamoros asked what items the EDC funding would go towards.

James McDonald responded it would go to the general fund, primarily security and bounce houses.

Robert Johnson asked how many attendees stay at local hotels.

James McDonald said he does not have a number but did have a deal with hotels within the City to offer a 25% discount.

Robert Johnson asked if James McDonald had any itemized accounting for the event or any sales tax figures.

James McDonald said the sales tax for the day of the event last year was \$1300.

Robert Johnson asked if Mr. McDonald would be open to having expenses reimbursed rather than provided upfront.

James McDonald responded yes.

Josh Mitchell suggested a 15% reimbursement up to the requested \$7500.

Shonda Marshall thanked Mr. McDonald for his efforts on trying to promote the downtown.

George Matamoros suggested a 10% reimbursement.

David McGinty said he would like to include an EDC table at the event as well as marketing on the EDC website and social media.

George Matamoros made a motion to reimburse ten percent of Barcadia's Annual BikeFest's expenses up to a total amount of \$5000. David McGinty seconded the motion.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Discuss and take possible action on 301 W Brazos

Robert Johnson requested this discussion be tabled until the plumbing issues are repaired.

VI. Subcommittee Updates

Shonda Marshall said she would like to do a board training on Main Street since the EDC is working so closely with Main Street to revitalize the Downtown.

Robert Johnson informed the board of the joint training with Planning and Zoning and Main Street January 26th at 6pm to be held at City Hall.

David McGinty said he is still getting quotes on the dirt and drainage at the downtown buildings.

VII. Board Member and Executive Director Comments

1. President Mingo Marquez:

Mingo Marquez was absent.

2. Vice President Josh Mitchell:

Josh Mitchell said it is good to see the public and private sectors working together to make things happen in Freeport.

3. Secretary David McGinty:

David McGinty said a lot of positive things are coming up and hopefully the dark cloud over Freeport will be washed away.

4. Sandra Loeza:

Sandra Loeza reminded everyone of the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade on Monday at 11:00 A.M.

5. Shonda Marshall:

Shonda Marshall said she is looking forward to a great year and she is excited for new prospects.

6. Ken Tyner:

No Comment

7. George Matamoros:

George Matamoros thanked Mr. Johnson for an efficient meeting. George Matamoros encouraged the public to take their time and visit with local businesses.

8. Robert Johnson:

Robert Johnson said he has an item he would like to have moved to executive session. Robert said Gensler would be in attendance at the next board meeting to present the plan. Robert informed the board that he is making progress with the BR&E program and has posted a couple of journals he has written that businesses can utilize. Robert reviewed upcoming events.

VIII. Executive Session- Adjourn into Executive Session

It is now 7:11 p.m. and I hereby recess the regular session of the Freeport Economic Development Corporation meeting and do hereby convene into executive session in compliance with Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code to discuss economic development incentives related to project 2021F.

Reconvene into Open Session

Board President's statement:

It is now 7:42 p.m. and I hereby close the executive session of the Freeport Economic Development Corporation and do hereby reconvene the regular open session and take possible action on items mentioned in executive session.

IX. Discussion and Possible Action

1. Discussion on Project 2021F pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter, Section 551.087 (Economic Development)

No Action.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the board meeting was made by Sandra Loeza and seconded by Ken Tyner. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Josh Mitchell adjourned the board meeting at 7:42