

CORYELL COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

210 SOUTH FIRST STREET, COPPERAS COVE, TEXAS

APRIL 16, 2015, 3:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Members

Mary Beth Harrell
Eric Kietzer
Barbara Burrow
Dick Van Dyke
Donlie McMullen
Bill Luther
J. R. Atkins
Ira Brand

Regrets

Mike Harbour
Jack Barcroft

Advisory Members

Polo Enriquez
Teresa Chavez

Others

Susan Yanofsky
Tony Smith
David Bryant
Chuck Taylor
Taylor Durden
Samuel Thorpe

Citizen Forum

No Speakers.

Monthly Speaker

Bill Parry, Executive Director for the Heart of Texas Defense Alliance, provided an update on Ft. Hood. He began by reviewing the goals of the organization, paying special attention to the analysis of local, state, and national information regarding future plans that impact Ft. Hood's force structure. Because of the Budget Control Act of 2011, the army has been forced to reduce spending. The impact on Ft. Hood thus far has been a reduction of approximately 14,900 soldiers on the base while the army overall has reduced 79,400 troops. He stressed that if sequestration is allowed to occur again, Ft. Hood could potentially lose an entire combat brigade as well as additional civilian employees being cut. In addition, the base budget has decreased from a peak of \$252 billion to a 2015 budget of \$149 billion. He stressed that while the base budget has been decreasing, Congress has allowed Overseas Contingency funds to cover infrastructure on base. If the Overseas Contingency fund is cut, bases will not be able to maintain adequate infrastructure. In order to increase the Military Value of Ft. Hood, he stated that it is extremely important for communities to participate in the Joint Land Use Study which is conducted between local communities and bases. The goal is to work together to improve communication. Ft. Hood must explain to communities their mission and function and communities must agree not to encroach on the mission and function.

AN OPEN MEETING WAS HELD CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

MEMORANDUM 2015-6: Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2015

The minutes of March 19, 2015, were presented for review and approval. Motion by Atkins, seconded by Burrow, all voting "aye" to approve the minutes as presented.

MEMORANDUM 2015-7: Monthly Financial Report

Harrell stated there was no financial activity since the last report. No action taken.

MEMORANDUM 2015-8: Consider News Release(s)

No new releases presented. No action required.

MEMORANDUM 2015-9: Copperas Cove EDC Implements the Digital Works Program

This item was removed from the agenda.

MEMORANDUM 2015-10: Consider the Role of the Steering Committee in the Strategic Planning Process

Susan Yanofsky stated the first steering committee meeting went well with an excellent turn-out. She stated that one of the benefits of the steering committee is that a group of community members will have first-hand knowledge of the plan from the beginning and will be able to speak to it in the future. A list of the Steering Committee Members was provided.

MEMORANDUM 2015-11: Consider Action Concerning the Strategic Planning Process after the Update and Discussion

Susan Yanofsky updated the committee on the steps taken thus far regarding the Strategic Plan. Yanofsky began by discussing the strengths of the county. Primary concentrations now lie in TDCJ employees and agriculture workers. She stated that based on her analysis thus far, there is a lot of unmet demand and she is working on strategies to meet the demand. She went on to say that Coryell County ranks high in retail jobs, but these jobs tend to be low-paying and do not stimulate growth. The biggest weakness is that the county is far below where it needs to be in jobs that are high paying. Yanofsky then reviewed data, specifically Small Business Loan amounts and Building Permit amounts. While these look good on paper, she stated that this is really replacement investment and that gross revenue is not outpacing depreciation. The average weekly wage is also well below the US and state average (@ 1/3 less). She stated that educationally Coryell County surpasses the state in High School graduates, but lags well

behind the state in the number of people with Bachelor degrees. However, the population is relatively young which is good for growth.

The next steps in the process are to:

- 1) Continue interviews and data collection
- 2) Identify existing regional collaboration and partnership opportunities.
- 3) Continue to meet with the Steering Committee.

No action required.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Strategic Planning Committee – No additional report.

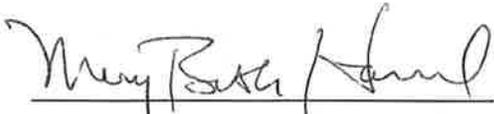
Communications Committee – CCEDB is now represented on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Members can link their personal accounts to the CCEDB account as well.

Nominations Committee – No additional report.

Executive Committee – Harrell thanked the audience for attending the presentation today. She spoke about the return on investment for the county as a result of the Strategic Plan. The targets she specified were to plan for and provide growth, lower unemployment, and attract additional people to the county. No additional report.

Commissioners Report – Jack Wall will represent Coryell County and serve on the Joint Use committee on Fort Hood.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm. The next board meeting was scheduled for May 21, 2015 at 3 pm.



Mary Beth Harrell, President



Rick Kirkpatrick, Secretary