

Community and Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2018

The Friendswood Community and Economic Development Committee met on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 3:30 pm., in the second floor conference room of Friendswood City Hall, 910 South Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas, with the following members present: Chair Gary Kay, Meg Crowley, Skip Evans, Pauline Moore, Marcus Perry (arrived at 4:40 p.m.) Bill Provenzano, Jennifer Whitley, and Dr. Hilmar Zeissig. City Councilmember Mike Foreman and Friendswood ISD representative Amber Petree were also present.

Staff member present was Karen Capps.

Also present was Friendswood resident and City Council candidate, Robert Griffon.

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Chair Gary Kay at 3:32 p.m.

2. Roll call was made. Roll call was made. There was a quorum.

3. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Hilmar Zeissig made a motion to approve the February 7, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Meg Crowley and it passed unanimously in the committee.

4. Overview of the Friendswood Downtown Economic Development Corporation by President, Ron Cox

Chair Gary Kay introduced Ron Cox, President of the Friendswood Downtown Economic Development Corporation (FDEDC), stating he invited Ron Cox to provide an overview to the CEDC of their goals, activities, and how the CEDC can work together. Mr. Cox stated that voters approved two ballot measures in May 2016 that included 1/8 cent sales tax for downtown and 3/8 cent sales tax for street maintenance. Each City Councilmember appointed a member to serve on the seven-member board of the FDEDC with two-year terms that can be reappointed for additional terms. Their annual budget is approximately \$400,000 and all expenditures must be approved by City Council. Projects have included removal of AT&T utility poles and wires and installation of buried cable along Friendswood Drive from Castlewood Drive to Clearview Avenue. Currently, the second phase of this project will soon begin that will remove additional poles and wires and install buried cable along Friendswood Drive from Spreading Oaks to Heritage Drive. The FDEDC hired a professional landscape architecture and urban planning/design firm, Lauren Griffith Associates (LGA), to develop a Downtown Improvements Plan. The plan will identify future improvements needed for the downtown district along with associated costs. A lighting design firm, traffic engineer, and branding/identity/design firm will also be part of the team. There will be many opportunities for public engagement and input during the plan process which will take about six months to complete. Mr. Cox completed his presentation with LGA's samples of work from Discovery Green, West University Place, City of Nassau Bay, City of Clear Lake Shores, and others.

5. Staff report/comments

Karen Capps provided an update on new development and the status of municipal grant projects. A report was given regarding City Council's work session discussion about Galveston County's bond projects relating to Friendswood. A status on the rezoning request for assisted living was also provided. A copy of the first quarter business news was provided as well as the most recent tax base chart of 85/15 residential/commercial ratio.

6. Member comments

Gary Kay reported on his attendance at three Chamber ribbon-cuttings for new businesses in the city.

7. Liaison reports

No reports.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.