

MEETING SUMMARY – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
City of Lake Forest Park
Wednesday, April 4, 2007

PRESENT: Rick Bungay, Chair; Jeff Weissman, Phil Sluiter, Tom Killorin, Jeff Snipes, Randi Sibonga

ABSENT: Gordon Stephenson

GUESTS: Mayor David Hutchinson; Michael Pearce and Benjii Bittle of Economic Vitality Group

Call to Order

Chair Rick Bungay opened the meeting of the Economic Development Commission meeting at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed Mayor Hutchinson and Michael Pearce and Benjii Bittle of Economic Vitality Group.

Commendation for Jeff Snipes

Commissioners welcomed retiring Cmr. Jeff Snipes and offered their best wishes for his future plans. Discussion followed regarding his plans to sell his business and relocate to Costa Rica.

Mayor Hutchinson expressed his appreciation to Jeff Snipes for his service to the community as a member of the Economic Development Commission and as a long-time member of the city's retail community. Hutchinson presented Snipes with a travel size copy of his certificate of appreciation and tokens of appreciation on behalf of his fellow commissioners.

Snipes thanked Mayor Hutchinson and his colleagues on the Economic Development Commission for their gifts and good wishes. He said that he would be in contact with them regarding the timing of his move to Costa Rica.

Snipes exited the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Review of Meeting Summary

The review of the February 2007 meeting summary was overlooked and will be added to the May 3, 2007 commission meeting agenda.

Reports and Communications

Town Center Subcommittee appointment of EDC member

Chair Bungay discussed the commission's interest in being having a representative on the Local Government Committee for the Town Center Project. He noted that the committee would be involved in discussions with the mall ownership regarding its plans for redevelopment. Bungay noted that the council had not approved the commission's nominee Jeff Weissman, and he asked commissioners how they wished to proceed.

Cmr. Weissman noted the importance of commission representation on the committee and recommended that the commission select another member for council consideration.

Following discussion, commissioners agreed that Chair Bungay should offer the name of Cmr. Phil Sluiter as the commission's nominee for the local government committee for the town center project. Bungay said that he would contact Mayor *pro tempore* Roger Olstad regarding the commission's nomination of Phil Sluiter for the committee.

New Business

Economic Vitality First Planning Session – Michael Pearce and Benjii Bittle

Bungay welcomed Michael Pearce and Benjii Bittle of Economic Vitality Group, the commission's consultant to assist with identification of economic development goals and recommendations for the commission's work plan.

Pearce thanked the commission for the opportunity to work with them on this project. He discussed his firm's concept of economic development as more than increasing business activity. He said that proper economic development is not simply more business or a re-creation of somewhere else. He introduced the project lead Benjii Bittle, a former Lake Forest Park resident, to begin the discussion of a vision for economic development.

Bittle guided the discussion through a series of questions to help their firm understand what Lake Forest Park is and how to describe the community. (Bittle's notes of the discussion are attached.)

Pearce thanked commissioners for their participation and discussed the schedule for the upcoming commission meetings.

Meeting Adjourned

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Susan Stine
for Heidi Dunlap Inglis

Next Meeting: May 3, 2007

Lake Forest Park Economic Development Commission
Notes from First Work Session with Economic Vitality Group
April 4, 2007

1. Describe the kind of community you want for Lake Forest Park (LFP). What is this different about the community you want vs. the community you are in?

Thinking ahead—short and long-term planning that's rooted in community
Clear that the city values its citizens and offers choices for people that they want

Bike path as a bridge into LFP—event funding needed
Bike event would help promote image as youthful and active and connected to the natural world

Approach development comprehensively, not piecemeal—a systems approach
Growth that reflects vitality, environment, ethnic and cultural richness, more restaurants

Vision of the Lake—embraced and connected to town
Affordable housing
A strategy around home based businesses

Coordination and integration of infrastructure from transportation to arts facilities

LFP is a good place to live—Town Center can be enhanced with more shops, pedestrians, and gathering spaces

Walkable community—magnets draw people from point A to point B, shops act as anchors, lead people to amenities like the lake and trails

2. Describe a Day in the Life of LFP for a resident and visitor.

Resident:

An urban experience—I don't have to leave for any reason

I work at home, go to Town Center to grab coffee, get a book at the library, take a walk, shop for groceries, see an independent film

European sense of place—we're in it together—no Chucky Cheese—a gathering plaza (3rd Place Books is one but others too) with streams and trees—

a place that values education—a great school district

Visitor:

LFP is a refreshing pause, a break from the hectic life—a slower pace and a place to reflect – Heron Lake—trees, green gulches are valued and protected

3. In your opinion, what is LFP’s most important asset when it comes to the local economy? What is the role of the Economic Development Commission in making the most of this asset?

<u>Asset</u>	<u>Role</u>
Active citizenry	Engagement
Love/respect environment	Lead in green building, sustainability, work at home
Personal wealth	Focusing it on civic causes
Volunteer participation- Rotary, foundation, gov’t	Form Chamber of Commerce
Highly educated residents	Activate it, channel it “Friendly global domination”
3 rd Place Books/ Community	Support, add value to Town Center
Connection to History	Services for all ages A Historic Commission
Connection to place	Celebrate pride of place/salmon

4. What do you perceive as the greatest threat to the long-term economic vitality of LFP? What do you see as the role of the ED Commission in dealing with this problem?

<u>Threat</u>	<u>Role</u>
Homogeneous Housing Stock	Variety of options and price points
Leakage—dollars leaving town	Add businesses and events Focus on business retention
Pushback vs. growth and change	Smart growth Forward looking leadership

5. If you could bring one new business to LFP that would help create the kind of community you value, what would it be?

Bike shop

Restaurant— family friendly but upscale
ethnically culturally rich
Scott's bar and grill
Sand Point bar and grill
Not a chain

High-end grocer Whole Foods, Thriftway

Children's Store—Apparel

Joanne's or craft/fabric store

Upholstery or boutique services

Woman's shop

Keep the toy store

Gift shop

Kitchen place

Yarn and tea (or wine...)

Education Center

Something for kids

Medical Center/ services

Destination or specialty store

Neighborhood restaurant

Specialty chocolate shop

Writing center/ lab – ala Hugo House in Seattle

Indie cinema/community theater

Retain the dance center

Parks & Rec

Some of Stewardship Fdn

Stewardship Fdn

Windermere

School District

Senior Center

Arts Council

Friends of LFP Third Place Commons

Center for Human Services