

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Planning and Economic Development
AGENDA DATE: April 26, 2011
CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Kathy Dodson, PhD, Director 541-4670
DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT:

Formal report of the Economic Development, Planning and Tourism Legislative Review Committee meeting held on April 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. as submitted by City Representative Steve Ortega, Chair.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Report to the Mayor and Council of the Economic Development, Planning and Tourism Legislative Review Committee meeting held on April 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:


Department Head



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
Meeting Action Report

Committee: Economic Development, Planning & Tourism

Members: City Representative Ann Lilly
City Representative Susie Byrd
City Representative Beto O'Rourke
City Representative Steve Ortega (Chair)

Date of Meeting: April 7, 2011

I. Staff status report and discussion on Capital Improvement Projects.

Summary:

Item not heard.

Action Taken:

No action taken.

II. Discussion and action on the creation of the City of El Paso Economic Development Incentive Policy for the purpose of job creation, attracting and retaining alternative energy companies, and developing a sustainable Alternative Energy Cluster in the city.

Summary:

Presentation given by Staff on proposed incentive policy to be used for business attraction with a long-term goal of developing an Alternative Energy Cluster in El Paso. Staff inquired about potential guidance from Representatives. REDCo president Bob Cook presented recommendations for changes to the policy. Representative Byrd requested there be language in the policy that allowed for incentives to businesses encourage use of alternative energies. Representative O'Rourke requested the policy focus on attracting businesses to Downtown El Paso.

Action Taken:

The LRC approved 3-1 to bring policy forward to City Council, and that:

- The term "Qualifying Project" be amended to match that presented by REDCo
- Staff offer two formulas for grant amount, the one presented in policy and that of REDCo
- City Council members be provided information on electricity rates relevant to the proposed policy
- The policy be amended to place an emphasis on Downtown-centric business attraction

III. Presentation, discussion, and action on a potential Smart Code Master Planned development located near the intersection of I-10 and Executive Center Drive.

Summary:

Presentation by representatives of project on potential large Smart Code development. Overview of current site and proposed construction given. Representative Ortega inquired about the feasibility of the project. It was suggested that approximately \$10 million net present value would be needed from the City.

Action Taken:

No action taken.

IV. Presentation, discussion, and action on a potential Smart Code Master Planned development located at the intersection of Joe Battle and Montana Avenue.

Summary:

Presentation by representatives of project on potential large Smart Code development. Overview of current site and proposed construction given.

Action Taken:

No action taken.

V. Discussion and action on a recommendation by the Open Space Advisory Board that the city initiate rezoning of Keystone and Rio Bosque to a Natural Open Space (NOS) District and that both Keystone and Rio Bosque be designated as a Wildlife Sanctuary under the Natural Open Space (NOS) District.

Summary:

Presentation by Staff on current status of areas and potential rezoning of both.

Action Taken:

LRC unanimously approved bring item forward to City Council

VI. Discussion and action on a recommendation to amend Title 19 (Subdivisions) to add provisions for development plats and to require restrictive covenants for non-residential subdivision

Summary:

Presentation by Staff on amendment to City Code.

Action taken:

LRC unanimously approved bring item forward to City Council with the caveat that it be publicly vetted beforehand.

VII. Discussion and action on creating a zoning district for city owned property to be held as an urban reserve until such time as a master plan can be developed for said property.

Summary:

Presentation by Staff on possible amendment to City Code.

Action taken:

LRC unanimously approved bring item forward to City Council with the caveat that it be publicly vetted beforehand.

- VIII. Discussion and action on creating a zoning district for city owned property to be held as an urban reserve until such time as a master plan can be developed for said property.

Summary:

Presentation by Staff on item.

Action taken:

LRC unanimously approved bring item forward to City Council with the added provision that SmartCode be mandated for rezoned areas.

- IX. Discussion and action to approve an Ordinance amending Title 2 (Administration and Personnel), Chapter 2.102 (Neighborhood Association Recognition) of the El Paso City Code in its entirety, to provide as standardized recognition policy; to define terms; to provide criteria for recognition and registration of a neighborhood association or civic association; to establish the responsibilities of a recognized neighborhood association; to clarify the process for suspension or revocation of recognition status; and to clarify the services available to be recognized neighborhood associations.

Summary:

Item not heard.

Action Taken:

No action taken.

- X. Discussion and action on economic development related negotiations and possible incentives for business prospect GM-033111 (Executive Session).

Action Taken:

No action taken.

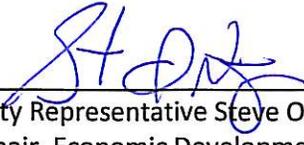
- XI. Discussion and action on economic development related negotiations and possible incentives for business prospect EC-033111 (Executive Session).

Action Taken:

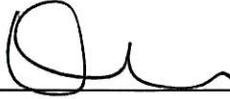
LRC unanimously approved bringing forward to City Council a potential Chapter 380 contract including suggestions made by LRC members, and that:

- The item be brought forward to City Council within 2 weeks
- The development place an emphasis on having frontward facing buildings on Montana Ave.

SUBMITTED BY:



City Representative Steve Ortega, District 7
Chair, Economic Development, Planning & Tourism LRC



Kathy Dodson, Director
Planning and Economic Development Department