

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: May 3, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:07 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:17 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Jackie Nytes, Chair
Patrice Abduallah
Virginia Cain
Lonnell Conley
Marilyn Pfisterer
Joanne Sanders

ABSENT MEMBERS

Isaac Randolph, Jr

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 166, 2006 - reappoints Phyllis A. Carr to the Urban Enterprise Association Board of Directors
"Do Pass" Vote 6-0

Tour of the Emerging Technology Center – Mark Long, President and Chief Executive Officer

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Economic Development Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, May 3, 2006. Chair Jackie Nytes called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. with the following members present: Patrice Abdullah, Virginia Cain, Lonnell Conley, Marilyn Pfisterer, and Joanne Sanders. Absent was Isaac Randolph, Jr.

Chair Nytes stated that the Committee will tour the Indiana University Emerging Technology Center (IUETC) after completing the official business of the meeting. She said that the IUETC is the hot spot for a lot of the economic development and hopeful business growth in Indianapolis.

PROPOSAL NO. 166, 2006 - reappoints Phyllis A. Carr to the Urban Enterprise Association Board of Directors

Chair Nytes asked Ms. Carr to inform the Committee about her service on the Urban Enterprise Board and stated that the Committee is aware that the Enterprise Zones all across Indiana are going through a lot of changes with the loss of the Inventory Tax.

Ms. Carr said that she has considered it an honor and privilege to serve on the Board. She said that there have been a lot of ups and downs but many good things have happened in the neighborhoods, especially Martindale/Brightwood. She said that a lot of the funding has been lost, but efforts are still being made. She believes that the Industrial Park will bring great benefits to the residents as well as move new businesses into the area. Chair Nytes asked if the Board has a strategy for coping with the loss of the Inventory Tax revenue. Ms. Carr said that the Board is constantly putting together a survival strategy by applying for grants and writing proposals that will fit the needs of the Enterprise Zone. However, she said it is a constant battle of trying to find new money because of the economic conditions of the city, state, and country. She said that there is money out there and that the Board simply needs to continue looking for the right complement for the Zone. She said that the New Market Tax Credit will help, but the Board really has to work with that. Chair Nytes stated that she understands that the Board has had a success with the new tax credit, and one of the businesses that will be receiving money from that credit has closed on its loan and distributed a check to the Urban Enterprise Board. Ms. Carr affirmed.

Councillor Pfisterer asked Ms. Carr what the one thing is that she is most proud of associated with the Urban Enterprise. Ms. Carr said that the fact that some residents have been able to find employment, to improve skills, learn resume writing, and work on interviewing techniques is very beneficial and the fact that the Industrial Park is located in the area. She said that the growth with the park has been quite an obstacle and challenge to observe, but she believes that everyone has tried to work with the residents and the businesses in that area.

Councillor Pfisterer asked Ms. Carr about her attendance. Ms. Carr answered that her attendance during the last few months has been on and off because of the illness and death of her father and

many other family challenges. She said that she is on call for meetings and is available by phone conversations during meetings and for any other things that the Board may need. She said that she does whatever she can for the good of the community as she was taught to always try to give back and not expect to always receive. Councillor Pfisterer said that the City is very fortunate to have a lot of people such as Ms. Carr. Chair Nytes said that she believes that Ms. Carr's affiliation with Martin University is a major strength that is brought to the Enterprise area, and it provides an opportunity for people in the Zone to have an increased connection with the University which is critical. Ms. Carr said that it is also a benefit to the University. It is often not able to service some of the people, but has a GED program that gets people interested in completing their high school education. Then some try to stay with Martin to continue their education, and some go on to other city institutions. She said that Martin is a private institution and sometimes tuition can be more expensive, but the University does its best to offer resources to the community.

Councillor Abdullah said that he knows of Ms. Carr's community involvement and appreciates her commitment and sacrifices to the community over the years. Councillor Conley commended Ms. Carr on her dedication to the community, Martin University and other areas.

Councillor Conley moved, seconded by Councillor Abdullah, to forward Proposal No. 166, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

CONCLUSION

With no further business, and upon motion duly made, the Economic Development Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Nytes, Chair

JN/nsm