

**ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018
12:00 PM
PLAZA DE ARMAS GALLERY**

Members Present:	Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>Chair, District 3</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Manny Pelaez, <i>District 8</i> Councilmember John Courage, <i>District 9</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
Members Absent:	None
Staff Present:	Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Ray Rodriguez, <i>Deputy City Attorney</i> ; Katinka Howell, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Stephanie Brosig, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Rene Dominguez, <i>Director, Economic Development Department</i> ; Veronica Garcia, <i>Interim Assistant Director, Center City Development and Operations Department</i> ; Jessica Harris, <i>Assistant Director, Economic Development Department</i> ; Denice F. Trevino, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Walter Serna, <i>Attorney at Law</i> ; Leo Gomez, <i>President and CEO, Brooks Development Authority</i> ; Jenna Saucedo-Herrera, <i>President and CEO, San Antonio Economic Development Foundation</i> ; Anna Chowdhury, <i>Texas State University</i>

Call to Order

Chairperson Viagran called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the August 7, 2018 Economic and Workforce Development Committee Meeting.

Councilmember Courage moved to approve the Minutes of the August 7, 2018 Economic and Workforce Development Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Briefing and Possible Action on:

2. Briefing by the Brooks Development Authority on Economic Activity to Include Strategic Direction, Recent Accomplishments, and Ongoing Partnership Initiatives.

Leo Gomez presented a video entitled 'Live Brooks'. He noted that the vision for the Brooks Development Authority (Brooks) was to create a San Antonio community attracting local, national, and international investment to achieve world-class opportunities that transform the campus, surrounding neighborhoods, and the region, while respecting our rich and vibrant

history. He stated that the mission was to promote and develop a vibrant, sustainable community that serves as a catalyst for progressive economic development and regional prosperity. He noted that the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) base value for Brooks was \$36.8 million in 2003 and has grown to \$663 million in 2017. He spoke of assets near Brooks such as the Stinson Municipal Airport, the San Antonio River, and the Republic Golf Club. He stated that in the last five years; 1,174 apartment units have been added and 3,000+ students were expected at Brooks by Fall 2019 from various institutions. He noted that Nissei Plastics Industrial opened in May 2018 and 80% of the job force there would be Skilled Maintenance Technicians which are not required to have college degrees and would earn \$50,000-\$60,000 annually with training and certification. He stated that the light industrial park at Brooks encompassed 350 acres and housed DPT Labs, Mission Solar, and the Brooks Academy. He spoke of the growth opportunity for the light industrial park. He noted that the Greenline, which provide connection to Mission Reach, was opened in April 2018 and included four pavilions, 23 picnic tables, Swell Cycle, 1.5 miles of trail, and Wi-Fi connections. He stated that Hangar 9, which was established in 1918, underwent a \$2.8 million rehabilitation, was 8,700 square feet in size, and would serve as an event venue. He noted that the Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa opened one year ago and has been a success. He stated that it was the first full service hotel south of downtown and presented a video depicting the Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa.

Mr. Gomez noted that through a partnership with the city, the Humane Society has performed 5,000 surgeries this year on kittens and puppies at Brooks. He stated that the master planning of parcels in the Land Use Plan would begin in October 2018 to include: 1) An 80-acre town center; 2) Light Industrial Park; and 3) Office Park. He noted that the Brooks Transit Center was under construction and would be completed by late Spring 2019. He stated that there would be a direct route to downtown from Brooks. He noted that local restaurants would be located adjacent to the University of the Incarnate Word Medical School. He stated that the Waters Office Park would be the first Class A Office Building south of downtown. He noted that the SA Tomorrow Regional Center at Brooks had successfully captured a significant number and diversity of jobs in a short period of time. He stated that additionally, the area benefits from excellent highway and arterial connectivity to downtown and other regional centers.

Chairperson Viagran asked of single-family housing at Brooks. Mr. Gomez stated that 150 lots on the banks of the greenline would be developed with the ground breaking to be held in March 2019. Chairperson Viagran asked of the number of market rate apartments at Brooks. Mr. Gomez replied that there were just under 1,300 and 95% were occupied.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of the small businesses at Brooks. Mr. Gomez replied that there were small businesses in the areas surrounding Brooks. Councilmember Gonzales asked of the cost of the Spay/Neuter Clinic. Rene Dominguez stated that the portion of the cost assigned to the city was \$710,000 and the total cost of the project was \$1.3 million.

Councilmember Perry asked what was meant when describing tax-free land. Mr. Gomez stated that land that was part of the Brooks Development Authority was tax-free. Councilmember Perry requested that tax revenues be reviewed when they are assessed.

Councilmember Pelaez asked of the challenges experienced at Brooks. Mr. Gomez stated that infrastructure, coordination between the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation (SAEDF) and the city for economic development, and innovation were challenges to Brooks.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. Overview and Status of the Public/Private Partnership between the Economic Development Department and the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation.

Jenna Saucedo-Herrera stated that the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation (SAEDF) which was founded over 43 years ago, is San Antonio's lead economic development entity charged with continued development and diversification of the San Antonio regional economy. She noted that SAEDF partnered with the City of San Antonio (CoSA), San Antonio Water System (SAWS), CPS Energy, Bexar County, and the State of Texas. She stated that SAEDF also partnered with Visit San Antonio and the Chambers of Commerce to advocate on behalf of CoSA. She noted that the SAEDF was founded in 1975 and funded by the private sector. She stated that in 2008, the Mayor commissioned a private sector review of the economic development delivery system. She noted that in 2011, a public/private partnership was formed between the SAEDF, CoSA, and Bexar County and in 2015; the Forefront SA Strategic Plan for economic development was crafted. She noted that in 2016, SAEDF Leadership transitioned and increased focus on Forefront SA. She stated that in 2017, strategic goals were refined and the target industry focus was enhanced and in 2018, there was a global focus and FTA integration. She noted that next year, the 3-5 year strategic planning process would be initiated and included:

- Business attraction
- Business retention and expansion
- Trade development
- Entrepreneurial development

Ms. Saucedo-Herrera noted that workforce development was SAEDF's primary goal. She stated that operationalizing Forefront SA included:

- Coordination and collaboration
- Private sector leadership
- Maximization of resources
- Agile economic development
- Data driven

She stated that the 2018 priorities were: 1) Continuous improvement; 2) International business development; and 3) Regional economic development. She reviewed the 2018 performance year-to-date, recent successes, and the 2018 performance breakdown.

Councilmember Courage asked of the goals and partners for workforce development. Ms. Saucedo-Herrera stated that SAEDF partnered with SAWorks and delegate agencies to develop desired skill sets and address employer needs.

Councilmember Pelaez asked what the city should be doing differently to improve success. Ms. Jenna Saucedo-Herrera stated that partners should refine their focus and invest in Cybersecurity, Bioscience, and Marketing.

Councilmember Perry requested a list of the 27 local companies which staff had visited. Ms. Saucedo-Herrera stated that she would provide said list. Councilmember Perry spoke of capturing data from the Military.

Councilmember Courage asked how much of the SAEDF Budget was funded by the city. Ms. Jenna Saucedo-Herrera stated that a little over \$900,000 of the SAEDF Budget was funded by the city.

No action was required for Item 3.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Rebecca Viagran, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted,

Denice F. Trevino