

The Woodlands Township
AD HOC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday June 1, 2017
MINUTES

The Ad Hoc Economic Development Committee of The Woodlands Township Board of Directors met in regular session, open to the public, on Thursday, June 1, 2017 posted to begin at 8:30 a.m. The Committee meeting was held in a meeting room at the office of The Woodlands Township, 2801 Technology Forest Boulevard; The Woodlands, Texas 77381 within the boundaries of The Woodlands Township.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Committee Chair Dr. Ann Snyder, Committee Member John McMullan and Committee Member Brian Boniface.

STAFF ADVISORS: Director of Community Relations Nick Wolda; Township President Don Norrell; Township Assistant to the President, Karen Dempsey; Assistant General Manager Community Services John Powers; Community Relations Manager Mary Connell; and Administrative Assistant Danielle Gatlin.

OTHER ATTENDEES: Gensler, Jonathan Shelledy; Gensler, Rafael Scasserra; Waterway Arts Council, Amy Lecocq; Waterway Arts Council, Mike Bass; By phone: Webb Management, Duncan Webb.

Call to order; 8:32 a.m.

Committee Chair Ann Snyder called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. There was a quorum of members present; the Committee proceeded to conduct business regarding the following matters.

Receive, consider and act upon adoption of the meeting agenda;

Motion made by Brian Boniface to adopt the agenda as presented and Dr. Ann Snyder seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Receive, consider and act upon minutes from May 11, 2017 meeting;

Motion made by John McMullan to adopt the minutes and Brian Boniface seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Receive, consider and act upon matters related to the Cultural Arts Study;

The Committee received, considered and acted upon matters for the Cultural Arts Study. Committee Chair Ann Snyder introduced Jonathan Shelledy and Rafael Scasserra from Gensler

to present. The Committee reviewed project recommendations from Gensler and Webb Management for further study in Phase II. The projects were based on components identified in the needs assessment. Two recommendations came to the forefront: Project A – Arts Center and Project B – Natural Science Museum. Mr. Shelledy said both projects presented a strong case for success, as well as the ability to be combined with other cultural elements. The Arts Center could include performance, rehearsal and teaching space, nonprofit exhibit space, a digital media center and a healing arts center. The Natural Science Museum could include a nature/science museum and an event and exhibit hall. Mr. Shelledy explained that Phase I is almost complete and that Duncan Webb with Webb Management presented findings to the Township Board of Directors in March.

Mr. Scasserra explained that the project is now at a pivotal point. Phase I indicated The Woodlands residents' thoughts for a Cultural Arts Center and presented nine different possible projects. Township President Don Norrell asked for a clearer picture of what that center would look like with possible comparisons to similar centers in other locations. Mr. Shelledy explained that Phase II, if approved, would focus on these aspects and more. Mr. Webb explained that real space would depend on partners for the project and the needs. Project B is a Natural Science Museum. There have been many discussions over the years with the Houston Natural Science Museum. This museum could also include event space. Committee member John McMullan asked specifically how many acres of land would a museum need and Mr. Scasserra gave an estimate of 5-10 acres, but Phase II will determine more specific information. Committee Chair Ann Snyder asked about proceeding with both options and Mr. Scasserra stated Phase II with both options will give a clearer picture. Mr. Webb explained that partnering with the educational sector is what makes both projects work. Mr. Scasserra offered to put together a list of facilities to tour, whether in person or through presentation, to gain a better understanding of what could be envisioned for The Woodlands. Mr. Scasserra then explained that the scope of Phase II is about facility and site assessment, operational analysis and financial analysis for both projects. Representatives from Gensler will attend the June 22, 2017, Board of Directors meeting to present the two options, along with comparable examples of similar existing facilities in other cities, for the Board of Directors' consideration in closing Phase I and moving forward with Phase II. Motion to recommend to the Township Board of Directors to move forward with Phase II for both projects presented was made by John McMullan and seconded by Brian Boniface. Motion passed unanimously.

Recess to the Executive session with counsel, staff and/or affected third parties to discuss matters relating to real property, deliberation of economic development negotiations, discuss personal matters, consult with The Woodlands Township attorney, and discuss funding alternatives and potential agreements with other local, state and federal agencies;

Reconvene in Public Session; and take action on matters from Executive Session;

The Committee agreed to forego recessing to Executive Session.

Receive, consider and act upon the next meeting date of the Economic Development Committee;

The decision was made to meet on July 6, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. Motion to approve Economic Development Committee meeting date set for July 6, 2017 was made by John McMullan and seconded by Brian Boniface. Motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting;

Items to be placed on the next meeting's agenda are to have an agenda item regarding Cultural Arts District and an item regarding matters for the Cultural Arts Study.

Adjournment;

Motion made by John McMullan to adjourn meeting. Brian Boniface seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.