



# DRAFT MINUTES

## **Economic Development Commission Meeting**

November 16, 2011, 7:30am  
ASU Polytechnic Campus  
7001 E. Williamsfield Rd, Mesa AZ  
Administration Building  
ADMIN Conference Room 140

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### **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

#### **Present:**

Lee Ester, Chairman  
Carson Brown, Vice Chairman  
Warde Nichols  
John Schroeder  
Craig Barnes  
Julia Wheatley  
Jason Barney  
David Valenzuela  
Gordon Mortensen  
Randy Parish  
Steve Sossaman  
Tom Lindsey

Doreen Cott  
Marsha Hunt  
Jackie Terry  
Cathy Panella

SRP  
W Holdings  
ASU Polytechnic  
CGCC, Williams Campus  
Town Council  
Town Council  
Land Developer  
Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport  
Queen Creek Resident  
Queen Creek Resident  
Queen Creek Resident  
Queen Creek Unified School  
District  
Town of Queen Creek  
Town of Queen Creek  
ASU Polytechnic  
ASU Polytechnic

#### **Absent:**

Mark Schnepf  
Roseann Sweet  
Marquis Scott

Schnepf Farms  
Queen Creek Resident  
Queen Creek Chamber of  
Commerce

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 a.m. by Chairman Ester.

### **2. Public Comment:**

No public comment.

### **3. Items for Discussion and possible action**

#### **A. Consideration and possible approval of the September 28, 2011 minutes.**

Commissioner Sossaman moved to approve the minutes of September 28, 2011.  
Commissioner Mortensen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Update on the RFP for the 17-acres in Town Center**

Economic Development Director Doreen Cott informed the group that the Town received 3 proposals. Staff has decided to take a summary of the proposals to Town Council. One of the proposals included a bowling center and another proposal included a movie theatre.

**C. Presentation and discussion on the educational institutions that currently serve Queen Creek**

Ms. Cott explained that with the update to the Economic Development Strategic Plan underway it is helpful to have each of the educational institutions serving the Queen Creek area to provide an update and overview to the group.

Commissioner Nichols gave an overview of the ASU Polytechnic campus. ASU has 72,254 students and is the fastest growing research university. The Polytechnic campus is home to more than 9,700 students exploring ASU's professional and technological programs. The focus at the Polytechnic Campus is Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The nursing program has moved to downtown Phoenix. ASU has partnered with Mayo; however a medical program is not planned for the immediate future. There continues to be improvements/additions to the Polytechnic Campus.

Commissioner Schroeder gave an overview of Chandler-Gilbert Community College (CGCC). The college serves 3,800 students at the Williams campus. The campus is home to a number of specialized programs, including Aviation, Nursing, Fire Science, Law Enforcement Training, and Electric Utility Technology. CGCC offers the only FAA-approved community college aviation maintenance and flight programs in metro Phoenix. These certificate/degree and university transfer programs have been designed to meet the aviation industry's need for well-prepared pilots and technicians. Technical specialties include aircraft maintenance, electronics/avionics, and aircraft construction. These workforce development programs have been critical to the success of locating companies at PMGA.

Tom Lindsey gave an overview of the Queen Creek Unified School District (QCUSD). The QCUSD prepares students for college and future careers. In 1998 the district had 1,200 students. Today they have 5,200 students. The school district covers 46 square miles. They have recently earned a ranking of A for their district. The District is the largest employer in Queen Creek. QCUSD is one of the top 10 school districts in Arizona. They currently have an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) with the Town of Queen Creek for fueling vehicles at the transportation facility. Buying in bulk helps keep fuel costs low for both the Town and the School District. Commissioner Lindsey explained that in the past the District has partnered with ASU and CGCC on different programs.

Ms. Cott mentioned that Rio Salado will be giving an update at tonight's Town Council meeting. The RFP closes tomorrow for architectural services for the Communiiversity.

**D. Summary of current events – Reports from Chair, Commission Members and Economic Development staff**

Commissioner Valenzuela announced the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport is hosting an event to celebrate Allegiant's inaugural flight to Las Vegas. Allegiant will have 6 flights 4 days a week to Las Vegas. PMGA will hit the one million passengers mark next year.

Ms. Cott announced the Queen Creek Holiday Festival and Parade will be held on December 3.

Ms. Cott attended the Governor's Statewide Economic Development Conference at the end of October and the Queen Creek Incubator Program (QC Inc.) received an award for innovative economic development program.

The National League of Cities was held in Phoenix this year and Queen Creek hosted a mobile workshop which included a tour of Horseshoe Park & Equestrian Centre and the Queen Creek Incubator (QC Inc.). Approximately 40 elected officials from across the United States participated in the workshop titled, "Successful small town economic development programs."

Roseann Sweet has recently moved to Glendale and will be resigning from the Economic Development Commission. Ms. Cott thanked Ms. Sweet for her many years of service. Staff will be looking for another Queen Creek resident to fill her seat.

The Queen Creek Performing Arts Center (QCPAC) Main Theatre Series is featuring *Spamalot* on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Ms. Cott gave an update on the economic impact study. Surveys have been completed for Schnepf Farms. Surveys will be administered during the QCPAC showing of *Spamalot*.

The Town of Queen Creek was featured in a 2-page piece in Sunset Magazine.

Staff thanked ASU for hosting the Economic Development Commission meeting.

**E. Tour of the laboratory for Algae Research and Biotechnology; Arizona Center for Algae Technology and Innovation**

**4. Announcements**

**5. Adjournment**

Commissioner Sossaman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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Lee Ester, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Marsha Hunt, Sr. Administrative Asst.

I, Marsha Hunt, do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the November 16, 2011 meeting of the Queen Creek Town Economic Development Commission. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

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Marsha Hunt

Passed and approved on \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.