



MINUTES

Economic Development Commission Meeting

August 24, 2011, 7:30 a.m.

Queen Creek Incubator, SRP Conference Room
22713 S. Ellsworth Road, Building A, Queen Creek

1. **Call to order**

Present:

Lee Ester, Chairman	SRP
Carson Brown, Vice Chairman	W Holdings
Warde Nichols	ASU Polytechnic
John Schroeder	CGCC, Williams Campus
Julia Wheatley	Town Council
Jason Barney	Land Developer
David Valenzuela	Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport
Marquis Scott	Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
Gordon Mortensen	Queen Creek Resident
Roseann Sweet	Queen Creek Resident
Steve Sossaman	Queen Creek Resident
Tom Lindsey	Queen Creek Unified School District
Mark Schnepf	Schnepf Farms
Wayne Balmer	Town of Queen Creek
Doreen Cott	Town of Queen Creek
Kim Moyers	Town of Queen Creek
Marsha Hunt	Town of Queen Creek

Absent:

Craig Barnes	Town Council
Randy Parish	Queen Creek Resident

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 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 March 23, 2011 minutes.

Commissioner Mortensen commented on the ULI presentation given at the June 20 meeting which did not have a quorum. Economic Development Director Cott said staff will be presenting an overview of the recommendations from ULI as well as findings from the ASU Capstone Report. The Commission will see a full presentation once the Council provides direction on the recommendations. Wayne Balmer said it will be approximately 60 days before the Town receives the final draft from ULI.

Commissioner Mortensen moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 2011. Commissioner Schnepf seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Consideration and possible approval of a Chair and Vice Chair for the Economic Development Commission for FY11-12.

John Schroeder moved that Lee Ester remain as Chair and Carson Brown remain as Vice Chair for the Economic Development Commission for FY11-12. Commissioner Sossaman moved to cease nominations and seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Consideration and possible approval of the annual work program priorities for FY11-12.

Economic Development Director Cott provided copies of the work plan from last year and a draft for fiscal year 11-12. Staff also provided a copy of the department's action plan for the year. At the Town Council's recent retreat, staff was directed to update the 2007 Economic Development Strategic Plan. Ms. Cott suggested that the full Commission meet every other month and on the off months a smaller task force will work on updating specific sections of the plan.

Some other work program items that staff would like the Commission to consider for this fiscal year include:

- Develop a succession plan for the QC Incubator.
- Work with staff on an economic impact study
- Schedule educational/economic development updates

Chair Ester asked when staff would like to have the plan complete. Mrs. Cott said they would like to have by the strategic plan completed by June 30 and presented to Town Council in July. This would be a three year strategic plan.

Commissioner Barney asked if they should look at the ULI study. Mrs. Cott said the ULI study and specific recommendations will be part of the economic development strategic plan. Commissioner Mortensen suggested that the ULI study be reviewed by the Commission and included in the work program as separate item. He also wants to weigh in on the ASU Capstone report.

Ms. Cott went through the department's action plan and then focused on the accomplishments of the Commission's work program from last fiscal year including the QC Incubator, the Ombudsman Program and a successful Roots 'N Boots event.

Ms. Cott asked the Commission to suggest topics they would like to hear about. Staff suggested a tour of the algae facility at ASU Polytechnic and a real estate trends presentation. In the past the Commission has the Mesa Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) come out and give a presentation which impacts hotel development. Commissioner Mortensen would like a presentation on the Queen Creek and Higley school system K-12 and community colleges. We need to make sure the right information gets out to the community. Commissioner Barney said the school district is a high priority for people purchasing homes in Queen Creek.

Chair Ester would like to include in the strategic plan youth oriented programs in the community. Where do the kids go after school like bowling, swimming, or a movie theatre? Is there anything the commission could do for youth oriented entertainment? Ms. Cott said we could include this piece when we look at arts and culture sector.

Commissioner Mortensen moved to approve the annual work program priorities for FY11-12 as amended. Commissioner Schroeder seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Consideration and possible approval of the Economic Development Commission's meeting schedule for FY11-12.

Economic Development Director Cott suggested that the full Commission meet every other month and on the off months have a task force work on updates to the strategic plan. The task force process work very well when staff was working on the S.W.O.T. analysis for Town's employment areas and when developing the Incubator program.

The Commission agreed with this approach.

Chair Ester suggested meeting the fourth Wednesday of the month. The commission will meet in September and start the every other month schedule from there.

Commissioner Schnepf moved for new schedule. The new schedule will include the full commission meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The commission will meet every other month after the September meeting. The off months will have task force meetings or sector tours. Vice Chair Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Presentation on Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.

Commissioner David Valenzuela, Assistant Manager of Business Development with Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport gave a presentation which covered passenger service, business development and freight service. The airport has been growing rapidly and Allegiant Airlines destinations have grown. Allegiant Airlines maintains exclusive rights to the cities in which they

fly. Mr. Valenzuela reviewed passenger counts and the estimate for 2011 is 900,000. The next project is the passenger terminal expansion for phase 2. Once phase 3 is finished, they will have positions for 8 airplanes. They will start the phase 2 expansion in another month and plan to be finished in twelve months. Before the northeast terminal is built, there are significant infrastructure improvements to be made. Sossaman Road in its current capacity may cause constraints in allowing for future passenger growth.

With regards to business development, the north parking lot is just about complete and Ray Road improvements are complete.

AZ Direct is how PMGA markets air freight potential. Air freight has taken a hit from 2006-2010. PMGA does see opportunity in fresh food air freight. Bio fuel is something the airport would like to be tied to; this will attract freight and other businesses to the area.

There are opportunities in Queen Creek with the maintenance and repair of airplanes.

They have had discussions of moving livestock on airplanes, specialty cargo, live animals and fresh fruit.

MAG is looking at a webinar on September 7 on how to manage transportation network for freight.

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

Commissioner Lindsey said there is a website for the Queen Creek School Education Foundation located at QCSEF.org. The whole purpose of the foundation is to take care of Queen Creek students and staff by providing scholarships. They raise money through a golf outing at Las Colinas each year and this year it will be held on October 1. They are looking for sponsors and golfers.

Commissioner Scott said the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner will be held on September 15. Individual tickets are \$50. They are trying to make this a fundraiser. The speaker is Barry Broome, President and CEO of GPEC.

On September 22 at the Barn (Barney Family Sports Complex), the Chamber of Commerce is launching the largest map in Arizona with a 10' x 15' map of the Queen Creek area.

4. Announcements

None

5. Adjournment

Commissioner Sossaman moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

TOWN OF QUEEN CREEK

Lee Ester, Chairman

ATTEST:

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 August 24, 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.

Marsha Hunt

Passed and approved on September 28, 2011.