



# DRAFT MINUTES

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING January 28, 2009, 7:30 a.m. San Tan Conference Room

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### 1. Call to order

#### Present:

Chairman, John Schroeder	CGCC Williams Campus
Vice Chairman, Roseann Sweet	Queen Creek Resident
Council Member Barnes	Town of Queen Creek
Jim Nelson	SRP
Lee Ester	SRP
Steve Sossaman	Queen Creek Resident
Jason Barney	Land Developer
Rustyn Sherer	Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce
Doreen Cott	Town of Queen Creek
Kim Moyers	Town of Queen Creek

#### Guests:

Chris Wharton	ASU Polytechnic
Scarlett Spring	GPEC
Kathleen Lee	GPEC

#### Absent:

Council Member Mortensen	Town of Queen Creek
Dr. James Murlless	Queen Creek Unified School District
Jean Humphries	Arizona State University Polytechnic
David Valenzuela	Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport
MaryAnn Guerra	TGen
Kevin Peterson	Vistoso Partners

### 2. Public Comment

No public comment.

### 3. Items for Discussion:

#### **B. Introduction of Lee Ester with Salt River Project.**

Economic Development Director Doreen Cott presented Commissioner Nelson with a gift and thanked him for his participation and leadership on the Commission. Mr. Nelson is retiring from SRP in February. Chairman John Schroeder welcomed Commissioner Lee Ester. Mr. Ester will be replacing Jim on the Commission as the designated representative from SRP.

**A. Consideration and possible approval of the October 22, 2008 minutes.**

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Sossaman, seconded by Vice Chairman Sweet to approve the minutes with the spelling correction of Engel Hall on page 4. Voice vote carried 7-0.

**C. Update on Farmers' Market Event and presentation on survey results by Chris Wharton with ASU Polytechnic.**

Economic Development Management Assistant Kim Moyers stated that the Farmers' Market on November 15<sup>th</sup> was a success. Approximately 3,000 people attended; 38 vendors participated. Chris Wharton with ASU Polytechnic collected survey data at the Market and he presented his findings to the Commission.

Key Points:

- 93.5% of those that completed the survey thought that locally grown produce was important.
- Items that draw people to Farmers' Markets are the entertainment, supporting their community and fresh produce available for purchase.
- Produce is the primary expectation of those that attend.
- Locally grown produce is more important than organic produce. People want to know where the food comes from, and also support their local community.

Economic Development Director Doreen Cott said that additional dates for the Farmers' Markets are planned and staff would like to conduct the survey again so the data will have more validity when staff presents results to the Town Council.

Chris Wharton suggested that staff talk to local CSA farmers (Community Supported Agriculture) about participating in future Farmers' Markets. He also suggested that the Town consider developing a community garden for residents to grow produce and then sell at the Farmers' Market.

The CSA website that Mr. Wharton recommended was [www.polycsa.org](http://www.polycsa.org).

Commissioner Nelson asked if the CSA at the Polytechnic provides a variety of produce. Mr. Wharton stated that the produce provided depends on the season but they typically provide a variety of 8 items per shipment.

Commissioner Sossaman wanted to know if citrus was included. Mr. Wharton replied that grapefruit and oranges are offered during season.

**E. Presentation, discussion and possible action on the Greening Greater Phoenix Initiative and Sustainable Industries Cluster by the Greater Phoenix Economic Council.**

Scarlett Spring, Senior Vice President and COO of GPEC, gave a presentation of the Economic Benefits of Solar and Renewable Energy.

Key Points:

- The renewable energy industry is one of the few growing industries in today's economy.

- There are different companies within the solar and renewable industry – photo voltaic manufacturers, thin film manufacturers, solar headquarters, glass manufacturers and electrical generation.
- Companies in Germany and Spain have had the largest growth in solar.
- Solar-supported employment will add 276,000 jobs between 2009 and 2016.
- US solar installations will increase by \$232B.
- President Obama’s proposed Energy Plan will create 5 million new solar and renewable energy jobs.
- Arizona is a prime location for solar power. Panels will become less expensive as electricity costs rise.
- Arizona is missing economic opportunities for high wage jobs in the solar industry.

Commissioner Barney asked what it would take for a glass manufacturer to select Queen Creek. Ms. Spring indicated that a glass manufacturer cannot locate in a non-attainment area and typically needs rail access.

- Site selection criteria for solar companies include shovel ready sites, fast-track permitting, a strong manufacturing and engineering workforce and competitive incentives. Once the site is selected, the process moves quickly.

Commissioner Barney asked what shovel ready means to solar companies. Ms. Spring indicated that existing infrastructure and electrical sub-stations are important factors. Typically solar panel manufacturers are huge power users.

- There is a link on the APS website for consumers to calculate costs of residential solar panels to see if they are cost effective.
- The solar and renewable energy bill, if passed, will make Arizona more competitive with states with more aggressive incentive programs.

Director Doreen Cott would like the Commission to consider amending the Town’s Economic Development Strategic Plan to include sustainable industries as a targeted sector.

Commissioner Barney asked for a SWOT Analysis to be on the agenda for the next meeting. Staff will draft key criteria for each of the sample projects presented by GPEC.

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

Chairman Schroeder invited everyone to the grand opening of Engel Hall on February 23, 2009. He stated that Engel Hall should be LEED gold status. March 11<sup>th</sup> is the grand opening of the new Hanger at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport. There are discussions between Rio Salado and Chandler-Gilbert Community College to partner on a “communiversity” in Queen Creek.

Director Doreen Cott mentioned that the Horseshoe Park grand opening was a great success. The park has reservations through April.

Nine members have been appointed to the Town Center Committee. Two additional members will be appointed on February 4, 2009. Updates to the Town Center and Redevelopment Area plans will commence in February.

Staff attended and exhibited at the ICSC Southwest Conference and Deal Making session.

The ACE Sub-committee will meet February 25, 2009.

**3. Announcements**

No announcements

**4. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

**Next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2009.**