

7/21/15 ED Public Hearing Comments

Following Slide Presentations:

Jack Paulk –

- FBHDA should take lead role in all job creating enterprise;
- It represents City, County, Chamber, Community;
- Has all assets;
- Should hire full time director responsible to provide focus, clarity, visibility, accountability to all efforts.

Buck Anderson –

- First look to expand existing industry;
- 400 jobs = \$160K/k = \$640K/mo. = \$\$7.7MM/yr turns 7x = \$50MM/year
- Focus on water/ food/ forestry related

Debra Weil –

- We have to come together as one community
- FBHDA should take lead

J W Mooney –

- What is ED?
- What are priorities?
- Industrial ED is priority, though others are players;
- Must prioritize facets;
- Allocate SPLOST to enable all facets;
- FBHDA focus on industrial development;
- Chamber now run by board vs. exec. Board

Ben Mills –

- FBHDA founded in 1963;
- ED climate different then;
- Support for projects like Rochfort should be in mix;
- Consolidation should be studied.

Philip Jay –

- Consolidation in another part of plan;
- Functional consolidation ahead of most.

Ron Paulk –

- Need public input;
- Big progress being made;
- New director by (/01.

Lisa Stone –

- Schools looking for ways to work with community;
- 90% students in poverty;
- 15% go to college;
- 85% have no role model or guidance at home for work ethic;
- Students lack soft Skills
- Adapting Change Program from football to system-wide, stress accountability;
- Move On When Ready – Spends last Junior/Senior yrs. At Wiregrass on cert. program;
- Coordinates w/ industry to acquaint students with real jobs.

Philip Jay –

- Also need to support BSA, CIS, FCA, Churches, and other character building orgs.

April McDuffie –

- Results of education summits includes introducing K-12 teachers to industries;
- Tech & work ethic training for HS & MS teachers to enable them;
- New partnerships between K-12 & industry

Gwen Slacks –

- Youth Build – builds affordable housing while teaching job skills.

Bennie Calloway_–

- Should look at ED as taught by Joanne Lewis in Douglas;
- We need a plan;
- We are not represented like competitors at Transportation Summit, etc.
- BHCDA plays important role in small business growth not covered elsewhere;
- Status quo can & has worked but need better cooperation (plan).

Ron Paulk –

- Volunteers should contact us.

Jim Casper –

- We should focus on job creation;
- What is perpetual poverty status?
- How can we change that?

Frank Field –

- It is a federal overlay based on a number of statistics.

Steve McIntyre –

- Tremendous responsibility rests on hiring right ED Director;
- Need the best that's out there.

Mayor closed w/ announcement of next meeting