



NORTHWEST JACKSONVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND (NWJEDF) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City Hall at St. James
117 West Duval Street, 3rd, Conference Room 3C
Jacksonville, FL 32202
March 5, 2018 – 3:30 p.m.

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.

MARCH MEETING SUMMARY

Location: City Hall at St. James, located at 117 West Duval Street, 3rd Floor, Conference Room 3C, Jacksonville, FL 32202

Advisory Board Members Present: John Allmand, Fred Atwill, George Barnes, Valerie H. Jenkins, and Joe Whitaker

Advisory Board Members Not Present: Cynthia Glover, Karen Landry and Royce McGowan

Others Present: **Office of Economic Development (OED)** – Daphne Colbert, Paul Crawford, Wendy Khan, and Ed Randolph; **Office of General Counsel (OGC)** – Emerson Lotzia; **Mayor's Office** – Dr. Johnny Gaffney

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Whitaker called the NWJEDF Advisory Board meeting to order @ 3:30 p.m. A quorum was established.

II. ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Approval of the November 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes** – Approval of November 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Board Member Barnes moved that the November 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Board Member Allmand. A vote of the Board was taken and the minutes of the November 21, 2017 Board Meeting were unanimously (5-0) approved by the members present.
- 2. January 2018 Meeting Minutes** – January 31, 2018 Meeting Minutes were presented for the record without a vote, for information purposes only since there was not a quorum at the meeting and no votes were taken.
- 3. Project Cart** – Ed Randolph, Director of Business Development for the Office of Economic Development requested the board consider a request to provide up to \$40,000 from the Northwest Economic Development Trust Fund to provide the funding to pay for a \$1,000 Economically Distressed Area Target Industry Program Grant for each new full-time employee hired by Project Cart to be disbursed over a four year period in 25% installments up to \$40,000. The city is requiring that 20% of the new jobs proposed to be created will be residents of Northwest Jacksonville. Project Cart is wholesale distributor of food and grocery store items currently located within Jacksonville's Northwest Economic Development Trust Fund boundary area. Project Cart has indicated that they are evaluating an expansion of their Jacksonville facility and create up to 40 new full-time jobs, paying an average wage of a minimum of \$30,100 for the new hires.

A Summary of the Economically Distressed Area Targeted Industry Program was distributed to the Board Members for their information (see attached). Project Cart is a national wholesale distributor within the Logistics Targeted Industry Sector. The project site is located within a Level 2 – Economically Distressed Area within the Northwest Economic Development Fund boundary. Cart is proposing to create more than the 10 new full-time jobs minimum. The average annual wage \$30,100 is equal to or greater than 60% of Duval County's average wage of \$30,021. Project Cart has indicated that the funding provided by the Economically Distressed Area Targeted Industry Program at \$1,000 per new full time job created up to \$40,000 is a material factor in their decision to expand in Jacksonville versus another Southeast US location.

Mr. Randolph explained the confidential nature of the project to the company necessitating the need for a code name. Mr. Randolph provided all the assurances the Board requested during the question and answer period. Board Member Barnes moved to approve the appropriation of up to \$40,000 from the Northwest Economic Development Trust Fund to pay for the proposed Economically Distressed Area Target Industry Program Grant to Project Cart at the level of \$1,000 for each new full-time job created by the company up to the maximum of 40 new full-time jobs of which 20% are to be residents of Northwest Jacksonville and paying an average of \$30,100

per job. Board Member Jenkins seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken by the Board and the request was unanimously approved (5-0) by the members present.

III. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Wendy Khan, Finance and Compliance Manager provided an update on the NWJEDF Monthly Financials. As of March 2nd, 2018, all outstanding loans are current. Funds were disbursed to the Jax Farmers Market and Hans-Mill Inc. (Project Bucket) as of December 22, 2017. We are currently waiting on documentation from Liquid Proof, LLC, dba Four Fathers Distillery, in order to close on the loan and to payout the grant.

KJB Specialties/Cowealth, LLC sent their first payment in the amount of \$954.00, as a result of their Chapter 11 reorganization plan in January 2018. Ongoing payments in the same amount are expected. Gregory Myers, owner of Mr. G's Hair Depot, was served a Notice of Complaint. The city is currently negotiating a settlement.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Members' term dates and categories represented were provided in the January 2018 board packet. There were no questions or comments.

2018 NWJEDF quarterly meeting dates were provided in the January 2018 board packet and are also listed on the website at www.jaxdevelopment.org.

V. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to cover.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Whitaker adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:41 p.m.

Next quarterly NWJEDF Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.

The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. For verbatim comments, an audio file of the meeting is available upon request. Please contact Daphne Colbert at (904) 630-7117, or by email at daphnec@coj.net.