

MONTGOMERY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MINUTES
JULY 9, 2018

Present were:, Cheryl Fox, Amy Brown, Rebecca Huss, John Champagne, Randy Moravec. Bill Hanover and Bob Kerr were present. Also present were, Shannan Reid and Jack Yates

Call to Order – President Rebecca Huss called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2018-2019 MEDC Budget Preparation Discussion – There was general discussion regarding the cities listed on the Texas City Research Overview report provided, as accumulated for several members of the Board. The cities of Wimberley, Glen Rose, Canton and Tomball were particularly discussed. The issue of whether or not tourism should be a principal matter of the economic development within the city was discussed at length.

The question of how, or if, the city can control retail development was discussed. How to shape the development of the core of the City, as to appearance and preservation of retail in the core area, was also discussed. The general opinion of the Board was that retail will guide itself to the City, with only slight involvement by the economic development factors coming from the City itself. A discussion was held regarding economic development incentives—such as tax rebates or a special underlying district formation..

The Mission and Goals Statement of the MEDC was presented to the Board and briefly discussed.

Member John Champagne left the meeting at 9:35 a.m

The general opinion of the Board was that the role of tourism, that is getting more people into the City to shop inside the City and particularly in the downtown area, was the best way of using the MEDC funds. That led to a discussion of the Chamber of Commerce and MEDC Agreement regarding the shared position of Economic Development Director of the City and the Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce. There was discussion regarding Chamber and HMBA relations and if a Promotions person could better deal with both groups and do the promotions function in a more productive manner. The City Administrator was told to put the issue of cancellation of the MEDC/Chamber Agreement on the next MEDC agenda.

There was discussion regarding a spreadsheet provided by Board member Amy Brown regarding possible projects of the MEDC involving: a historic downtown plan, medical/educational facilities, entertainment such as amphitheater, skate Park Sam Houston Forest, enhancement of parks, more festivals, business development incubator program, a parking app, downtown expansion development zone, harnessing of wedding industry in the area and tourism marketing involving a Visitor Center and Travel and Visitors Bureau. These items were briefly discussed.

There was general discussion regarding the remainder of the budget with comments for including to not list the individual events as individual line items but instead to list events as a collective amount with decisions regarding individual funding to be decided by the Board as a later time,

what to do with the brochure/printed literature item, the internship program, that the downtown development improvements line item is meant for downtown for capital improvements, the downtown enhancement projects line item is meant for design of the master plan for that the downtown area, that seasonal decorations and Christmas lighting/civic association be combined in one item and that utility extensions line item be used to balance the MEDC fund for the year to match revenue to expenditures.

Adjournment --Motion by Fox, seconded by Kerr to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 a..m.



Jack Yates, Recording Secretary

