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BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

August 22, 2022

Call to Order. Chair Rusty Melle called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Roll Call. Chair Rusty Melle, Vice Chair Brian DeGonzague, and Board Members Cody Naber, Rande Matteson John Frazier, and Tara Couture.

Chair Melle introduced the new Board Member Tara Couture.

Also in attendance: Council Members Andrea Young, Diana Adams, and Daniel McDow, Planning Director Christy Fischer, City Clerk Cynthia Hanscom and other members of the public.

Adoption of Minutes. *Vice Chair DeGonzague moved to approve the minutes from June 27, 2022. Board Member Matteson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Brevard Public Schools Career & Technology Internship Program. Department Director Rachel Rutledge was in attendance to talk about the programs at the Brevard Schools Career & Technology Internship Program. She stated that there were 42 unique career and technical education programs. Students are learning programs such as engineering, automotive, culinary arts and construction. Students are getting core skills needed for cyber security, firefighting, 911 telecommunication, and robotics and technical design. This provides a real exposure to those in demand pathways. The internship program is in place for students to get a true in-field exploration of what it was like to work in that pathway. Now we are asking the community to be a mentor and work with the students. Many of these students are very talented want the opportunity to show what they have to offer.

Chair Melle asked about responses from the highly technical companies. Ms. Rutledge indicated that they had two interns starting with Embraer and had 6 students with L3 Harris over the summer. She noted that the corporate environment was harder to break through. In addition, some industries would not be able to place the students because of

the age. Some industries have more flexibility. Great opportunities at the state level for reimbursement for workers comp for businesses that were taking student interns.

Chair Melle asked about the number of students getting placed. Ms. Rutledge explained that there were more students than placements.

Board Member Frazier asked if the focus was on fields that required a college education. Ms. Rutledge stated that there was mix, with some that are looking to go right to work out of high school. She noted that some were looking at the possibility of a trade school. Some programs, such as applied robotics, could go forward in manufacturing program, look forward to a trade school, or pursue a degree. All the students are sitting in the same classroom with different goals.

Board Member Matteson asked if there was a pathway to Eastern Florida State College. Ms. Rutledge confirmed that there were many pathways and agreements with the university so that courses can carry through to the college level.

Ms. Rutledge provided information on funding for the programs through entitlements that was consistent from year to year and other state funding sources.

Council Member Adams asked which programs were in the highest demand. Ms. Rutledge stated the digital design and criminal justice programs had the highest enrollment. However, the automotive and culinary programs included good interest from the students.

Board Member Couture asked if there were community partners. Ms. Rutledge stated they worked closely with Career Source, local business partners, Health First, local municipalities and local chambers organizations.

Vice Chair DeGonzague asked which industries were needed. Ms. Rutledge stated the health care industry, architectural design, and digital design.

Board Member Naber asked about the work hour availability of students. Ms. Rutledge indicated that the hours could be adjusted as needed. She stated they have students working in the morning from 6 to 8:30 a.m. while others leave school at 12:00 noon for their internship.

The Board discussed availability from charter schools and that all of the programs were not available at all of the schools. Ms. Rutledge explained that some programs, such as interior design were being phased out. She indicated a recently completed a state-wide audit looked at the programs and where some were deleted at the state level. They were required to get through a needs assessment every two years.

Joint Meeting with Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Board Members discussed a future joint meeting with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. It was noted that the meeting was schedule on the same night as the West Melbourne Business Association. Board Members were asked to check their email in case the meeting was moved.

Comprehensive Plan Update. Planning Director Fischer provided information in the agenda on the update to the City's Comprehensive Plan and several upcoming vision sessions.

Public Comments. Council Member McDow announced the Palm Bay Chamber would be hosting the Space Coast Symposium at the Space Coast Convention Center from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on August 26. He encouraged those interested to go to the website.

City Clerk Hanscom invited members to attend a social hour for the introduction of the Police Chief applicants Friday, September 9, 2022, at the Promise Café in the West Melbourne Community Park.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Business Advisory Board is scheduled for Monday, October 24, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.