

# Orange County Economic Development Advisory Board

## Minutes

January 12, 2015

Carolina Inn  
Hillsborough, NC

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**Present:** Delores Bailey, D.R. Bryan, Lori Eichel, Jim Kitchen, Ron Keizer, Karen McAdams, Mark O'Neal, Mark Sherburne

Staff: Steve Brantley; Yvonne Scarlett; Mike Ortosky

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**Absent:** Nicholas Thomas

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### Review/Approve Minutes

**MOTION:** Mark O'Neal motioned to approve the minutes of November 10, 2014; seconded by Mark Sherburne. **VOTE:** Approved unanimously.

### Old Business

#### Status of Grant Program - Steve Brantley

Brantley advised the Advisory Board that the Grant Program will be reviewed by the Board of County Commissioner at a work session on January 26, 2015 and asked members to attend to address the methodology of grant application process. *Jim Kitchen, Karen McAdams, DR Bryan and Delores Bailey agreed to attend.*

Additional discussion included:

- Review of document by other entities
- Publicity campaign
- Allocated funds from quarter-cent sales tax
- Small Business Loan Program
- Make-up of review committee
  - Agriculture Grant Committee (4 members)
    - Karen McAdams (Economic Development Advisory Board)
    - Carl Matyak (Cooperative Extension)
    - Two members of Ag Preservation Board
    - Mike Ortosky (Staff)

#### Director's Report - Steve Brantley

- Agriculture Economic Development Coordinator - Mike Ortosky was introduced and provided a brief overview of his background and experience.
- Personnel changes in Economic Development office:
  - Ellen Tai has resigned and the Economic Development Specialist position will be posted in a couple of weeks.
  - Interviews will be conducted shortly for the Business Retention position. This position will focus on existing businesses (small and large) to address problems, expansion, etc.
- Arts Commission's office has relocated from Chapel Hill to Hillsborough (down to hall from Economic Development office).

- Morinaga is doing well with construction and plans to hold an open house in late September or early October.
- Brantley discussed recent projects (confidential).
- Additional discussion included:
  - Residential tax base
  - Rural Buffer - **Motion: Delores Bailey motioned to have the Economic Development Advisory Board review the Rural Buffer Policy and make recommendations to the Orange County Board of Commissioners and Towns of Hillsborough, Carrboro and Chapel Hill elected officials, seconded by Mark O'Neal. Motion carried with one opposed (Jim Kitchen).**
  - Next Advisory Board Meeting (March 16, 2015) - by general consensus, the Board will travel by bus through the Buckhorn EDD as well as the Alamance Industrial Park.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 10:00 a.m.