

NOTES
Mayor Swisstack's Transition Team
[Business/Economic Development Team Meeting](#)
Monday, April 14, 2008
2:00 p.m. – RRRCC Conference Room

Don Chalmers started the meeting. Six of the ten team members were present. Five residents attended.

Corrections to last week's Meeting Notes:

there are 15,000 economic based job to build upon in Rio Rancho

The notes from last week's meeting were reviewed. All of the areas in which the city is doing well were reviewed. These are:

1. smaller retail business openings, licensing, PR, help through the system
2. tourism is part of the economic development and Visitors' Bureau industries; Rio Rancho doesn't have what is considered "traditional" economic development for the visitors' industry
3. no overlap; two people don't do the same job
4. city, county, school, business organizations partnerships
5. strong community support
6. access/availability to community leaders and elected officials at all levels of government
7. there are 15,000 economic based companies to build upon in Rio Rancho and 63 economic based companies to build upon in Sandoval County
8. Rio Rancho Public Schools are excellent and have an impact on bringing businesses to Rio Rancho
9. Rio Rancho is one of the safest cities in New Mexico due to an excellent Department of Public Safety
10. lots of land is available

Discussion:

- ordinances as they pertain to opening a new business in Rio Rancho should be reviewed; create a review panel from the business to community to do the review as city staff wouldn't have the time; a DPM could decide which ordinances should be reviewed
- a consistent checklist for new businesses would be helpful; one-stop shop for new business owners at city hall is used in the most successful communities
- create a manual "How To Open A Business In Rio Rancho" to guide business owners through the process; this manual would be used

consistently and should be implemented in all relevant departments

- coordinate city and county to collaborate on a manual as well
- survey the public about which retail/commercial businesses they'd like to see in Rio Rancho {understand that it doesn't mean these requested businesses would be willing to open in Rio Rancho}
- City Clerk used to give packet of information to new business owners - included resources available {i.e. RRRCC. SBA, etc.}

Public Comment:

- areas rezoning for industrial use - aggregating land necessary
- attitude needs to be business friendly; cut construction to opening time; efficiency and timeliness of permitting process
- create a department of development for "one stop shopping"
- Rio Rancho's taxes are more than other communities
- GRT was a strong selling point 30 years ago, it's out of hand now; sales tax is more accurate term

Don Chalmers will meet with Matt Spangler, Debbi Moore and Ray Johnson on Tuesday, April 15th at 11:30 a.m. to review a rough draft of the preliminary report prepared by Judi Walker.

The next Business/Economic Development Team Meeting is Monday, April 21st at 2:00 p.m. at the RRRCC offices.