

NOTES

Mayor Swisstack's Transition Team

Business/Economic Team Meeting

Monday, March 31, 2008

2:00 p.m. – RRRCC Conference Room

Don Chalmers opened the meeting by having the team members introduce themselves. All team members were present. Five residents attended.

Debbi Moore explained the difference between Community Meetings and Transition Team Meetings. The deadline for the last meeting is April 25th. She explained that there is a Development Team that will concentrate on land use development.

Don Chalmers discussed the role of the Business/Economic Development Team. There was discussion about possible overlap between teams. The role of the Councilors on the teams is as a liaison to City Hall.

The following areas were identified as working well for the city:

- smaller retail business openings, licensing, PR, help through the system
- 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
- no overlap; two people don't do the same job
- city, county, school, business organizations partnerships
- strong community support
- access/availability to community leaders and elected officials at all levels of government

The following areas were identified as needing improvement:

- Development Issues: manual, processes, permitting
- industrial use community plan needed to determine "what goes where"; more organized growth
- large industrial space is limited
- antiquated platting {owners in multiple states may own adjacent properties} leads to NIMBY syndrome
- 2020 Plan is out-of-date as Rio Rancho grew faster than anticipated
- lack of infrastructure; huge expense to upgrade; need to offer a reasonable cost to business owners
- there are several elected officials for Rio Rancho who don't always work in the best interest of the city as they only represent a small part of it
- sign ordinance

- lack of communication between city staff and governing body as well as between governing body and residents
- lack of financial resources

Other Items discussed:

- 10 Characteristics of Economic Development {from New Mexico First, William H. Fruth Presentation} were listed and then discussed by team members as relevant to Rio Rancho.
 1. Consistently grow in size for an extended period of time.
 2. Consistently grow in quality for an extended period of time.
 3. Diversified economies – Multiple primary industries
 4. USA location
 5. Geographic Economic Assets
 6. University – Higher Education
 7. Aggressive, well financed economic development organization
 8. Available trained or trainable workforce
 9. Abundant supply of improved, approved industrial real estate
 10. Community Attitude
- How to get land for large industrial companies? Ideas included Quail Ranch, Hawksite; state owned land {which can be purchased or traded}; and zoning changes
- Governing Body supports retail/industrial “infill”; RREDC cooperation with the Governing Body is helpful
- reverse flow of traffic across the river by offering jobs close to Rio Rancho
- water is critical and a plan is needed for water use
- no place for large {5+K employees} industrial companies
- think regionally not just within Rio Rancho city limits
- lack of community interest {apathy}
- Review all regulations to make Rio Rancho the most business friendly city in the state
- Sandoval County could be selected as a site for a new airport; this has great potential for new businesses

Noreen Scott will bring maps and a transportation plan to the next meeting. Debbie Hays will present a transportation report with existing plans for the county at the next meeting.

Meeting Schedule

PLEASE NOTE REVISIONS

Monday, April 7th @ 9:30-11:00am, RRR Chamber of Commerce
Monday, April 14th @ 2:00-3:30pm, RRR Chamber of Commerce
Monday, April 21st @ 2:00-3:30pm, RRR Chamber of Commerce