

**Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and
Gadsden County Development Council
MEETING AGENDA
Joint Workshop and Information Fair
October 28, 2014
4:00 p.m.**

1. WELCOME

Vice Chair Brenda Holt with the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and Chairman Lee Garner, with the Gadsden County Development Council, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner Holt had everyone around the room introduce themselves and then she and Mr. Garner had some words to say.

2. Announcement of Award of the Competitive Florida Partnership Program

Bill Killingsworth, Department of Economic Opportunity, appeared and said they were here to acknowledge and recognize Gadsden County, last year they recognized four counties and this year Gadsden was the fourth to be recognized. He explained the Competitive Florida Partnership Program and stated they wanted to help the community to understand their vision or help to obtain and establish their vision of where they would like to go and help obtain strategies to get them there. He added with regard to Gadsden County, Gadsden was the highest ranked proposal they had and one reason the community was ranked so well, they looked for collaboration among the community. He further stated they were impressed with the number of organizations that were involved and it was not just the Chamber of Commerce. He said they viewed this as a “multi-year process” and wanted to establish a number of communities that could interchange ideas with each other, learn from each other and celebrate with each other. He said they looked forward to working with the community and introducing the ways they would help achieve the action items.

Julie Dennis, Department of Economic Opportunity, came forward and they presented Gadsden County and the GCDC with a certificate.

3. Overview of the Information Fair and Topic Tables

Beth Kirkland, CECD, Gadsden County Development Council, came forward and said she spoke with Commissioner Holt and the County Administrator, Robert Presnell; the feedback was how they could get to know more of the entities and organizations that were involved in the county and get more feedback so an idea of the “information fair” came out of that discussion. She added, with Allara Gutcher of the Planning Department’s efforts and applying for this partnership program, this became an opportunity for the award to be presented at this Workshop and Information Fair.

She then invited everyone to visit all the tables that were set up around the room and what the different entities had to offer. Before the break to visit the tables, Ms. Dot Inman-Johnson asked to speak on behalf of the City of Midway because they did not have a table set up and she would like to inform everyone of what was happening there.

Ms. Dot Inman-Johnson, City Manager, City of Midway, came forward and said there would be a

workshop in Midway on November 18, 2014, between 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for Small and Minority Business Support and if there were any small minority or women-owned businesses in the area that needed help with resources or to find out how to get the financing to expand or maintain their business, to please direct them to this workshop because there would be experts there on the panel to share some of the information on the programs they have available.

Commissioner Holt then invited everyone to visit the tables and asked that they write down their questions or suggestions to be talked over a little later in the evening.

4. Information Fair Commences (4:20 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.)

5. Questions/Comments

Mr. Garner and Vice Chair Holt asked everyone to take a seat and asked if there were any questions or suggestions. Ms. Kirkland suggested they go around the room and asked if there were any questions or suggestions.

Commissioner Holt talked about the Enterprise Zone and said almost everyone was unaware of the tax credits and it never was developed and never got off the ground. Commissioner Holt explained if you hired someone in an economically distressed area, you were eligible for a tax credit, if you hired someone and they lived in an economically distressed area, you received two tax credits.

Commissioner Holt said there was also a need for a website for the County, not just for the County Commission, but that way people were looking for or at our county would be able to see what the county offered.

Mr. Garner said their door was open, they were inclusive, the Chamber had a seat on the Board and they hoped they would join the meetings and work together as one. He then asked if there were any other comments, and stated he felt the workshop had been a success.

Homer Hirt, Board of Directors with RiverWay South, spoke and said he “lived and breathed tourism” and liked what was said regarding something “that might not be good for one county but would be a good fit for another” and how the counties needed to work together and learn there were no boundaries on tourism. He also said they were working with Goodwill to do hospitality training so if someone was at a restaurant or a hotel in the area, the person at the desk or the waitress would know things to do in the surrounding areas.

Joe Munroe, Quincy MainStreet, spoke and said they had participated in Porchfest this past weekend, where different musicians were on the front porches of different homes and businesses in the historic district of Quincy and it was quite a success and a very good turnout. He added next year they hoped to turn this into a signature event for Quincy, adding food trucks possibly around the square and make it a bigger event.

Bernie Howell, Mainstreet Chattahoochee, invited everyone on November 9, 2014, at 3:00 to Chattahoochee to the unveiling of the historical marker for the Indian Mound on the River Landing. He added that Dale Cox donated the money from the profits of his book, and there would be several different appearances and it would be a great event.

6. Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:18 P.M.

**BRENDA HOLT, Vice-Chair
Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk