

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
(REMOTELY)  
MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021  
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Paul Ruskiewicz, Chairman  
Barry Cheney, Joseph Minuta, James D. O'Donnell,  
Rob Sassi, Joel Sierra, Kathy A. Stegenga

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader  
Leigh J. Benton, Legislator  
Thomas J. Faggione, Legislator  
Kevin W. Hines, Legislator  
James M. Kulisek, Legislator  
Peter Tuohy, Legislator  
John Vero, Legislator  
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel  
Harold Porr III, Deputy County Executive  
J. Daniel Bloomer, Director of Operations  
Bill Fioravanti, Director, Economic Development  
Amanda Dana, Director, Tourism  
Stephanie Kistner, Tourism Coordinator, Tourism  
Nora Martinez, Film Specialist, Tourism and Film Office  
Jiana Barker, Tourism Assistant, Tourism  
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director  
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst  
Liz Delaney, Budget Analyst  
Dina Sena, Budget Analyst

Chairman Ruskiewicz opened the committee meeting at 4:02 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislator Tautel who was absent.

Ms. Dana provided a quarterly update on Tourism in Orange County (see original minutes). She advised the committee that Legoland will be opening in two phases. The end of April will be phase one and at the end of May will be phase two.

Mr. Fioravanti provided a monthly update on Economic Development in Orange County (see original minutes).

Mr. Ruskiewicz and Mr. Bloomer provided an update on the IDA. He stated that since their last Legislative Session they put in a new IDA Board. They have been very busy getting the new board updated. The day after their last session the paperwork was filed in Albany to have the new board instated and everyone was sworn in. They had two meetings, one was to get everyone up to date on the Fiorello Pharmaceuticals project in Warwick and also to get an overview on the Accelerator. The following day they held a meeting to vote on the Fiorello Pharmaceuticals project but since there were so many new board members who just received an overwhelming amount of

information on that and the annual audit, they decided to hold off until the following week. The reason was because many of the new board members were not ready to vote on the project and needed more time to review it. They plan to have a meeting tomorrow for an overview of all the current IDA projects and upcoming projects. They will go into executive session to discuss some of the issues related to the District Attorney's subpoena. He commended Mr. Bloomer who has done an excellent job getting things organized, coordinating with staff, and keeping new board members up to date.

Mr. Bloomer updated the committee by stating that all the board members have been sworn in and the necessary paperwork has been filed in Albany. They met several times via Zoom. They have their required state training set which will take place in April. It has been a challenge. The new board members were reluctant to vote on a multi-million-dollar project until they have more information. In regard to re-organization, some board members were hesitant to commit to being a board officer until they have a better idea what it entails so they have been given information on that. They also received information on the Fiorello Pharmaceuticals project and the board was provided a presentation. They have a lot of work to do. He pointed out that the Legislature appointed very intelligent and capable people to be on the board and he does not doubt that they will be up to speed soon and move things along. They now meet in the evenings not during the day. They want to vote on the Warwick project and get their financials up to the state.

Mr. Ruskiewicz added that the new board members are intelligent people, and they have a diverse group. They are all very engaged and many of them went to the Warwick site for a visit. They plan to have monthly updates to the Education and Economic Development Committee.

On the motion of Mr. Cheney, seconded by Mr. Minuta, the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.