



**Leesburg Economic Development Commission  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
Town Hall – Council Chamber  
May 9, 2024**

**Commission Members Present:** Robert Cunningham, Robert Cusack, Linda McCray, Angel Miranda, Tony Tallent

**Commission Members Absent:** Jason Miller, Monica Pindell

**Staff Liaisons Present:** None

**Staff Present:** Russell Seymour, Director, Economic Development  
Melanie Scoggins, Assistant Director, Economic Development  
Allison Wood, Small Business Development & Tourism Specialist  
Elaine Turney, Administrative Associate

1. **Call to Order**  
The meeting was called to order at 7:02p.m. by Director Seymour.
2. **Roll Call**  
Director Seymour conducted the Calling of the Roll; and stated that a quorum was present.
3. **Adoption of the Agenda**  
On a motion by Chair McCray, seconded by Commissioner Tallent, the agenda was adopted.
4. **Approval of Minutes**  
On a motion by Chair McCray, seconded by Commissioner Tallent, the minutes of April 3, 2024 were adopted.
5. **Petitioners**  
None.
6. **Liaison Comments**  
None.
7. **Liaisons to Other Commissions and Committees**  
Airport Liaison – Vice Chair McCray
  - Airport traffic continues to increase at new levels
  - Airport is in high demand with the present number of flight schools
  - Flight schools are concerned with questions from Town Council regarding restricting flight training and pricing schools out of leases

Chair Cunningham mentioned that vacancies for liaisons remain for the following:

  - The Environmental Advisory Commission
  - Planning Commission
  - Residential Traffic Commission
  - Tree Commission

## 8. Presentation – Hotel Burg Presentation

### Kevin Ash, President & CEO, EllisDale Construction LLC

Discussions ensued regarding:

- Details of the hotel
- Any interest in this part of Virginia for a casino facility like Tysons corner
- A private members club
- Too many retail strip centers in Leesburg
- Parking structures, retail
- Requirements to make Tourism/Technology Zones work
- Airport traffic (new levels)
- In demand with current flight schools
- Third party review is forward thinking

## 9. Staff Report – Director Seymour

- 2024 Leesburg Business Awards was a great success; out of 150+ RSVPs, 124 attendees were present
- The 2024 Boards and Commissions Networking Event
- Visit Loudoun Awards Ceremony
  - Flower & Garden Show won for Community Event
  - Leesburg Economic Development – Allison Wood won for the “Leesburg Loves Dogs” campaign

## 10. Old Business

Chair Cunningham emphasized the importance of increasing foot traffic in Leesburg and making it a destination instead of Washington, DC as well as having the importance of helping Leesburg businesses.

## 11. New Business

- Boards and Commissions Networking Event – Chair Cunningham and Vice Chair McCray will provide to the EDC several recommendations on how the event may be improved to allow for more networking opportunities.
- Chair Cunningham mentioned that the Loudoun County Economic Development is searching for a board member.
- Discussions ensued regarding building relationships with and helping businesses in Leesburg.

## 12. Commissioner’s Comments

- Commissioner Miranda indicated that it was a great presentation from Kevin Ash, he expressed congratulations to Allison Wood on receiving the Visit Loudoun Award and expressed his thanks to Staff.
- Commissioner Cusack believes that what Kevin Ash presented will draw a lot of people to Leesburg; congratulated Allison Wood on receiving the Visit Loudoun Award and mentioned that he cannot say enough about the great work staff is doing.
- Chair McCray expressed that staff’s work is fantastic, inspiring and gets better and better every year. She enjoyed the business awards event.

## 13. Chair Comments

Chair Cunningham Commended staff on the success of the 2024 Leesburg Business Awards event and added that the food was extraordinary, and atmosphere was festive. He will work with Commissioner McCray to draft recommendations/feedback on the boards and Commissions Networking Event. He mentioned that Kevin Ash’s presentation was great, and he appreciated his view as a real estate developer concerning parking, retail, and foot traffic.

## 14. Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Cusack, seconded by Chair McCray, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51p.m.