




City of North Port
Economic Development Division



MEMORANDUM

TO: A. Jerome Fletcher II, MPA, City Manager

FROM: Mel Thomas, Economic Development Manager 

SUBJECT: Community Economic Development Advisory Board 03.15.22 Meeting Action

DATE: March 22, 2022

This memorandum is to inform the City Manager of a recommendation from the Community Economic Development Advisory Board to the North Port City Commission from their March 15, 2022, meeting.

As Staff Liaison to and at the behest of the Community Economic Development Advisory Board (CEDAB), I respectfully submit the following action items from the March 15, 2022, CEDAB Meeting:

- *Recommend changing the terms for CEDAB members from two years to three years and the ability to renew for another three-year term.*
 - *The motion was carried unanimously on a voice vote.*
- *Recommend changing the CEDAB membership language to say, "no more than 11 members", changing 1(a) from Financial Services to FinTech, changing section 2 to add targeted industries such as Aviation and Aerospace, Corporate HQ, IT/Creative Industries, BioLife Sciences, Logistics & Distribution, and Mixed-Use, and to add another ex-officio member that is a monthly rotating City of North Port Commissioner.*
 - *The motion was carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

These motions resulted after conversation on how to increase the membership on CEDAB and allow members to spend enough time on the Board to learn and understand all of what is going on in the city. The members discussed that it could take up to two years to get familiar with everything that one needs to know to be fully effective only to find the term is completed; or one must take a one-year break before being eligible for another term. The Board members discussed the inefficiency of lost continuity if a member is out a year before returning.

The first portion of the second motion is a result of CEDAB's conversation on how to engage industry leaders in targeted industries that the City is attempting to recruit. None of the current members have ever seen the advisory board have the full eleven members at one time so reasoning was that expanding the list of eligibility categories would help. The list proposed is comprised of the targeted industries that staff has put forward in the impact fee implementation plan.

The members also had discussion on the benefits of having an ex-officio member that is a sitting Commissioner at their meetings. Since things are always changing, and it is hard to keep up with all topics, sitting Commissioners provide a perspective that CEDAB is missing. Additionally, it would give the CEDAB members a chance to talk to the Commissioners about Economic Development in the City and hear each of their perspectives one a rotating basis throughout the year.