

**MINUTES – BOARD AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
IRVING CONVENTION CENTER  
Friday, December 9, 2022**

Those in attendance: Committee Chair and Board Vice Chair Richard Stewart, Jr., Former Board Chair David Cole, Board Chair Robert Bourgeois, Beth Bowman, Herb Gears, Julia Kang, and Joe Philipp – Committee; Colvin Gibson – Board member; Carol Boyer, Maura Gast, Susan Rose, and Diana Pfaff – ICVB Staff.

Committee Chair Richard Stewart, Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Stewart asked for any citizen comments and there were none.

Stewart asked for a motion to approve the Board and Business Development Committee minutes from September 8, 2022. With a motion from Board member David Cole, and a second from Board member Beth Bowman, the motion unanimously was approved.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

This item was advised by the City Secretary's Office to be included on the agenda again. The Board Ordinance and Ethics Code documents are included in the complete meeting packet for review. The complete documents will also be included on the December Board meeting agenda.

**2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS**

Included in the packet are:

- City of Irving Legislative Program for the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature
- Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce Texas Legislative Priorities for the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature
- Texas Hotel & Lodging Association 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Priorities
- Visit Dallas 2023 Legislative Agenda
- THLA Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee Report: 2023 Session Public Version
- North Texas Commission Advocacy Roadmap

Gast noted the biggest concern is a lot of infringement on local controls and taking power away from cities, such as:

- Restricting cities rights for revenue caps on local municipalities, but not on the state.
- Safety codes, aesthetic rights stripped from cities and red-light cameras.
- Economic development existing use of Hotel Occupancy Tax.

Irving has the luxury of a full-time lobbyist. The North Texas Commission agenda has an intense focus on state and national legislature promoting strong local governments, education & workforce, and safeguarding a thriving business environment.

In response to a question from Board member Joe Philipp, Gast replied Mayor Stopfer and Chamber President Beth Bowman both sit on the North Texas Commission Board of Directors and work behind the scenes to support issues.

Bowman presented the Chamber's Legislative Agenda points:

- Economic Development
- Education & Workforce
- Healthcare
- Infrastructure

A survey is sent to Chamber members asking for their response on issues impacting their business. From the survey, feedback goes to the Legislative Advocacy Committee and a fine-tuned draft agenda is taken to the Board of Directors for consideration. The Board approves the priorities. Bowman noted the North Texas Commission is a good partner, but strategically the Chamber can weigh in and take the lead on some issues.

In response to a question from Board member Herb Gears, Bowman replied there is an opportunity to lean in on a position for gaming but have not heard strong support or opposition. The item comes into play every session. Gast added if there is no movement out of the Legislature this session, there may be significant effort for a statewide petition for a voter referendum during 2024, when there is a presidential election and higher voter turnout. The ICVB and the Chamber are actively involved in those conversations.

Regarding education, Stewart added that realtors are a major part of the misinformation to new residents regarding Irving schools.

Discussion was held on the electric grid and alternative fuel, hybrid/electric vehicles. Philipp added it is a complicated item and the City should be ready to address it. Bowman stated local and state officials need to continually hear the concerns and issues for the infrastructure and the growing demand. Mayor Stopfer is well respected and aggressively supports any initiative brought forward. Philipp thanked Bowman for her efforts and repeated the need for City Council and the Mayor to take a strong stand.

Assistant Executive Director Marketing/Communications Diana Pfaff asked if there will be a meet and greet event with new U.S. Congressman Nathaniel Moran. Bowman did meet with him in November and will continue with meetings. He is willing to listen and is getting to know Irving. The Chamber is looking forward to building a relationship with his team. Stewart added Irving is a small part of several districts without major influence, but the message needs to be consistent. Bowman thanked the Committee for being actively engaged and will work with the ICVB in partnership on issues and messaging.

Gast reviewed the ICVB initiatives for the Legislative Agenda.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW AND COMMITTEE NEXT STEPS

- Reaching out to new Council members.

**ACTION ITEM:** Board member David Cole to reach out to Councilman John Bloch and extend an invitation to a Board or Committee meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** Board member Colvin Gibson to reach out to Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Phil Riddle and extend an invitation to an Executive Committee meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Board member Colvin Gibson to reach out to Councilman Brad LaMorgese and extend an invitation to a Board or Committee meeting.

Any accepted invitation should be communicated to Gast or Office Manager Carol Boyer for seating and catering purposes at any Board or Committee meeting. Bowman stressed the importance of reaching out and nurturing Council members to activate the Board's direction and what is best for the City.

#### Review of Bookings and Business Trends

The December 19 Board meeting will feature a presentation from Chief Branding Officer of Meeting Professionals International Drew Holmgreen.

There are several articles included in the meeting packet:

- *U.S. Hotel Forecast*
- *STR Slightly Cuts 2023 ADR & Occupancy Forecast*
- *Price Waterhouse Cooper Hospitality Directions Report*
- *DFW Market Mixed Signals*

Bowman added Arlington Texas hotel growth impact on Irving will be minimal, but the challenge they will continue to encounter is public attractions in a condensed area will inhibit office space growth.

Philipp raised the question of which Committee is responsible for looking at revenue projections; it was determined that it should be the Executive Committee in its role as the de facto Audit and Finance Committee.

#### CHAIR REPORT

Stewart noted this was his last Committee meeting as Chair. He appreciates the participation and input of the Committee members.

Stewart adjourned the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Allen Gast, FCDME  
Executive Director