

Imagine Tallahassee Steering Committee Meeting Summary Minutes December 9, 2013

Absent Members: Mr. Brian Cook, Ms. Barbra Wills, Mr. Mike Pate, Mr. Warren Jones, Ms. Henree Martin, Mr. Stanley Walker, and Mr. Ted Thomas.

Delegated Representatives: Mr. Scott Balog (TCC), Mr. Keith Bowers (FAMU), Mr. Windell Paige (Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce), and Ms. Cassandra Jackson (City).

Meeting Began at 5:40 PM

Agenda Item #1: Review Feedback from the Sales Tax Committee

Mr. Dale Brill, Consultant with Thinkspot, shared with the Committee a list of questions and requests for additional information from the Sales Tax Committee meeting on December 5, 2013. The Committee discussed each individual question and coached each Champion on the best response for their response to the Sales Tax Committee on December 12, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Attachments

1. Questions from the December 5, 2013 Sales Tax Committee meeting.

Question from Sales Tax Committee to Imagine Tallahassee
December 5, 2013

Entrepreneurial Development Fund

- Are there educational components tied to the program?
- What percentage of participants in the existing program minorities?
- What will be the governance structure?
- What will be the metrics?
 - How many jobs created?
 - What will be measurements of growth?

Minority and Women Business Investment Fund

- What interest rate would be charged to keep the fund evergreen?
- What is the need for a separate entity to process these funds instead of the entrepreneurial program?
- What mechanics will be built in for participants who encounter difficulties after loans are made?
- Could the program be changed to one driven by geographical parameters? (i.e. available to businesses on the south side)

Technology and Innovation Incubators

- Is this limited to universities or does it serve the whole community?
- How is this different from incubators in the community that already exist?
- How does this compare to university incubators?
- Could a maintenance requirement be added? Require that jobs or businesses stay here for a period of time?
- Detailed information on other incubators:
 - Who is in charge of them?
 - How are they used?
 - Who uses them?
 - What are their successes?
- Where will funding be used? Space, furniture, staff?

Tallahassee Regional Airport Growth and Development

- Show a link between the Madison Mile project and this project
- Why pursue the international component?

Business Retention, Expansion, and Attraction Fund

- How does this help small businesses?
- Does this help service industry businesses?
- What is the EDC's role for existing businesses? What has been examples of success?
- How is this different from the Entrepreneurial Development Fund?

Economic Opportunity Rapid Response

- What is the difference between this program and the Retention, Expansion and Attraction Fund?

Question from Sales Tax Committee to Imagine Tallahassee
December 5, 2013

- What special circumstances would trigger the use of this fund?
- How does this comply with sunshine requirements?
- Would priorities or goals change each year? Could EDC have the flexibility to deal with that?

Madison Mile Convention District

- What are demand projections for the hotel?
- How would the annual operating expenses be handled?
- Emphasize the pedestrian connectivity that currently ends at the law school. How can it be connected to downtown?
- What is the specific timeline of the project?

Quantum Leaps and Signature Festivals

- What is relation to funding already being provided?
- What specifically will funding address? Measure shouldn't be number of grants given out, but what we get in return.

South Monroe/Adams Corridor Catalyst

- Need a clearer understanding of what investments will be made and how they complement infrastructure investments already being examined.
- How will this expand what the SBDC already does? Will specific activities be targeted by them?
- Show on a map the Blueprint funded South Monroe project and the changes this proposed project would fund.

Raising the Ship Talent Development

- Show how this project is different from programs already being addressed and other similar programs proposed by Imagine Tallahassee.

Overarching Questions

- How should these projects be prioritized?
- What will be the oversight structure?
- Could any of the programs be combined?