

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT
Haines City Economic Development Council, Inc.

Northeast Polk County has continued to grow and provide for an increase in all three (3) publically traded sectors of the real estate market: residential, commercial, and industrial. Economic development is strongly correlated with site selection and the availability of property. The pro-business atmosphere has become contagious and has made its way throughout the county so that Haines City is not only open for business, but is prepared for economic growth promoting a pro-development, pro-jobs philosophy. Working in conjunction with city, county and state officials the EDC is continuing to hold roundtable meetings to bring awareness of the road infrastructure needed to continue to grow the industrial park in Haines City, along with the traffic congestion on U.S. Highway 27. The goal is to have a plan in place to implement the ongoing growth of Northeast Polk. The Haines City EDC formed a committee with our EDO partners known as the Infrastructure Advisory and Stakeholder Committee.

Economic Development Organizations, City, County and State Partnerships

The Economic Development Council works aggressively with the City and the Chamber to promote Haines City as a destination, but more importantly, to attract, retain, and seek out new business development opportunities to foster an environment that attracts economic opportunities.

The Haines City Economic Development Council's President, Cyndi Jantomaso hosted the Haines City's 3rd Annual Economic Summit at the Lake Eva Event Center in Haines City. The event, sponsored in conjunction with the City of Haines City featured keynote speakers: Joseph Keating, Chief Investment Officer, Executive Vice President for CenterState Bank; Keith Robbins, District Freight Coordinator FDOT; Mr. Viscuso, Senior Vice President and Director of Strategic Growth at Pennoni; Aubrey Brown, Manager of Industrial Development for CSX.

Polk County Board of County Commissioners appointed Haines City EDC President, Cyndi Jantomaso to the Northeast Polk County Roadway Advisory Committee for a second term. Appointed to the Board of Directors with CareerSource Polk and a Board of Trustee for Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center.

The EDC participated at the following conferences representing Haines City: Site Consultant Forum 26; IEDC Annual Conference; FEDC Annual Conference.

Our Achievements this Past Year

Partnering with Duke Energy of the availability of opportunities within the City of Haines City and within its utilities service area regarding their suitability to participate in the Duke Site Readiness Program on land in the HC Industrial Park. This added another tool in the EDC's toolkit for sites in Haines City Industrial Park that are under the site readiness program.

Counsel and inform infrastructure concerns on strategies designed to foster the best possible pro-business environment within the City by facilitating a roundtable discussion with stakeholders, city, county and state officials starting a dialog to address the substantial growth and impending need of road infrastructure in NE Polk. These roundtable discussions perked notice from FDOT – CFX and TPO to advance the need for the US 27 Study and the 17-92 Study.

Worked to develop and retain an existing business, Aldi. Advocating for Aldi Corporate on the Tax Abatement with the County and City for their expansion which brought in more jobs to this community.

Implementing and organizing The Infrastructure Advisory and Stakeholder Committee.

Building a stronger relationship with CSX. Facilitating a site visit with CSX to meet with industry and property owners on the rail spur. Our partnership will assist the EDC in bringing awareness to the HC Industrial Park and the recruitment of rail served target industry to locate in the industrial park.

Co-Hosting, marketing and securing speakers for the Annual Economic Development Summit.

Marketing the City of Haines City and N.E. Polk County

To create a truly sustainable business environment, the EDC has partnered with Duke Energy, participating in the Duke Energy Site Readiness Program. This year we held the first and final roundtable discussions which were sponsored by the Haines City Economic Development Council, including representatives from the Central Florida Development Council, Saunders Real Estate, and Florida Public Utilities, City staff met with site selection consultants retained by Duke Energy to discuss the Lorenz property. Recently annexed by the City, the Lorenz property comprises 110 acres, is located south of the Aldi warehouse facility, east of Detour Road, and is zoned as Industrial Park. After discussing the various infrastructure, environmental, and other site-related concerns related to possible industrial development of the property, the meeting concluded with a visit to the site.

We are so appreciative of our investors: **City of Haines City, Polk County Board of County Commissioners, Heart of Florida Medical Center, Polk State College, CenterState Bank, Sofidel America, Pennoni, Duke Energy, Florida Public Utilities, Aldi Corporation, Crown Linen, Dave Schmitt Engineering, Webb's Realty and Citizens Bank.** It takes a team to be successful and the continued support as everyone works together is very much appreciated.

We are looking forward to another great year.

Ann Barnhart, Chairwoman (2017-2018)

Beth Evans, Vice Chairwoman (2017-2018)

Cyndi Jantomaso, President
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