



**MINUTES FROM BUSINESS CLIMATE MEETING  
5/6/05**

Welcome and introductions were made by Co-Chair Anne Merrill. We thanked the County for hosting us at Twin Lakes Park. Jack Culligan from Sarasota Parks and Recreation told us about the Twin Lakes building and that it is the first “green building: for County offices and meeting space. All of the building materials were environmentally approved.

Jon Kleiber, Chair of the Regulatory Sub Group spoke about a Forum that is being planned in June with public and private partners to address specific issues and give specific recommendations on regulatory challenges. What does Sarasota County need and how can both partners work towards goals once information has been identified.

Diane Andrews gave the EDC update report and about ED ROCKS 05 at the Serendipity Country Club on June 23, 2005 from 5:00-8:00 P.M. Funding proposals for the Cluster Sub Groups is due by May 31, 2005 to EDC. The next breakfast is June 6, 2005 at the Venetian Golf & River Club. Nomination forms were handed out for Excellence in Industry Awards and self nominations are encouraged. The EDC annual report and Business Cluster booklet were also passed out to the group.

The speaker was Bob Tunis, Economic Development Manager for the City of North Port. And his topic was: What is going on in North Port? Some of the statistics are as follows:

- In 2002 building permits for single family homes issued was 1405, in 2005 it is estimated they will be 4000
- North Port’s professional workforce has grown by 13% in one year
- Income distribution over one year has increased from 14% to 27% of those making \$65,000 and over.
- North Port’s Workforce in 2004 had 56% living in Sarasota County, in 2005 it is now 46%.
- The workforce statistic about how many have completed education college and above was 47% in 2004 and is 58% in 2005.

Workforce Housing Sub Group's Co-Chair John Haerle gave a report about the Workforce Housing questionnaire which is going to PGT, The Ritz Carlton, Sarasota Memorial Hospital and Sarasota County. Employees of these companies will have the survey attached to their paychecks the end of May and beginning of June. A company has been hired to compile the data and give a report about the findings from the survey which should be completed by 3-5,000 employees from the four organizations.

The Diversity Sub Group continues to meet every two weeks and is working on a Diversity questionnaire to be part of a discussion for three planned focus groups from businesses in Sarasota County. They are putting together a funding proposal for facilitation of these meetings to be held in the fall. The Diversity Mission Statement and Definition that the Sub Group developed was sent to all of the Business Climate members per Susan Scott's request.

Nora Patterson spoke to the group about Road Funding and its future in Sarasota County. A suggestion was to form a subcommittee from Business Climate and to invite someone from STARTUPS to the next meeting as the speaker.

Next Business Climate meeting is August 5, 2005 at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice from 9:00-11:00 AM.