



**MINUTES OF MEETING  
OF  
TAMPA BAY DEFENSE ALLIANCE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**12 November 2013**

**Time and Place of Meeting**

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance (TBDA) was held at the Tampa International Airport Board Room on 12 November 2013.

**Presiding Officer**

Mr. John Schueler, President, TBDA (“President”) presided at the meeting. Ms. Jennifer Godin acted as Secretary for the meeting.

**Roll Call**

The President asked that roll call be taken. The following Board members were present and attended the meeting: Mr. John Schueler, Brig Gen (R) Chip Diehl, Col (R) Rich McClain, Barry Alpert, Joe Lopano, and Tim Jones.

Also in attendance were TBDA Advisors and Partners: General (R) Art Lichte, Bill Boesch, Richard Wainio, Jim Sampey, MG (R) Karl Horst, Walter McCracken, and Mike Meidel.

Guests attending included: Col Doug Schwartz, Col Scott DeThomas, Ken Coppedge, Dave Timmons, Steve Morey and Jennifer Godin.

A quorum of the Board being present, the President called the meeting to order at 12 p.m.

The President stated that the proceedings of this Board are sensitive and are to be treated professionally and respectfully outside of these proceedings.

**Minutes Review**

The President asked that a motion be made to approve the minutes from 1 Oct 13 TBDA Board meeting. John Schueler made the motion for approval and Joe Lopano seconded the motion. All approved without exception.

## **President's Opening Remarks**

### **Organizational Updates**

- **TBDA**

Chip Diehl reported on the A/TA convention:

- The A/TA convention was a fantastic event and very good way to provide board members a better understanding of Air Mobility Command and its overall mission. Attendance is recommended next year.

- **EDC (Hillsborough County)**

Steve Morey reported on the Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation activities:

- Will be attending tradeshows, promoting the area
  - § THEDC will be a sponsor of TIDEX; 18-19 March 2014 at the Tampa Convention Center.
  - § GEOINT: 15-17 April 2014 at the Tampa Convention Center.
  - § SOFIC: 20-22 May 2014 at the Tampa Convention Center.
- Is reaching out to companies to build a presence here in Tampa Bay.

- **PCED (Pinellas County)**

Mike Meidel Reported on the Pinellas County Economic Development activities:

- Florida Federal Contractors Association has merged with the Florida Defense Contractors Association.
- Pinellas County has won some and lost some contracts under the current budget constraints.
- PCED awarded full amount of Defense Reinvestment Grant.

- **Tampa Bay Partnership (TBP)**

John Schueler reported on The Tampa Bay Partnership activities :

- Engaged in an ambassador program to market Tampa Bay, input from EDC's Chambers, etc.
- Ambassadors to use social media and networks to promote "Why Tampa Bay."

- **6<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing (AMW)**

Col Scott DeThomas reported on 6 AMC:

- Appreciates what The Alliance is doing, the mission/vision hasn't changed: taking care of our service men/woman and their families.
- Efforts to help transition are extremely important. Noted suicide rates are down, and the importance of supporting military men/woman.

- Noted Nashville businessman who created business training center in Nashville as a possible model for our efforts.
- We want people to retire here, so you have to take care of their families too (they need jobs).
  - § About 40% of people transitioning out go home, we need to focus on lowering that number.
    - ACTION ITEM: Rich McClain and Jim Sampey will lead an effort to look at consolidating / communicating employment efforts throughout the Tampa Bay region.
- Even though the government was shut down then turned back on, life isn't back to normal. There are issues under the surface that have stemmed from the shutdown.
- About 3 weeks away from charter school decision. Can direct any questions to the proper point of contact. Vote will go December 10<sup>th</sup> to the Board.
  - § Need campaign points, to include military lens viewpoint in order to bring something to the table as a group.
    - ACTION ITEM: John Schueler will get with Steve to find out specifically what TBDA needs to do, from an action standpoint, of what we need to do.
    - ACTION ITEM: TBDA will produce a letter of recommendation/advocacy for charter school on base
      - Waiting on EDC, Partnership & Chamber for support commitment

- **927 Air Reserve Wing (ARW)**

Col Doug Schwartz reported on 927 ARW:

- Readiness is still good, but it's a "slow motion erosion"
- Encouraged to hear about efforts to connect the dots on Veteran hiring, etc.

## **New Business**

- **Grant Projects**

Chip Diehl reported on TBDA Grant activities:

- Everyone rallied really well:
  - § DRG \$80,000 (not official yet)
  - § Task Force \$225,000 (official)
- It's great that we have the money, but the challenges haven't gone away.
- Briefings will be posted on the website.
- Group suggested that we make the financials more available/transparent to the group (what \$ amounts are in each bucket).

- **New Board members**  
John Schueler reported on recommendation for New Board Members:
  - Vote on two new members:
    - § Jim Sampey
      - Board voted unanimously to approve.
    - § Ken Coppedge
      - Board voted unanimously to approve.
  
- **Quarterly Letter Plan to AMC/CC Chip Diehl**  
Agenda items were not covered due to time.
  
- **Subcommittee to review 4 min PSA proposal Chip Diehl**  
Agenda items were not covered due to time.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be scheduled at Tampa Bay Times Forum on 7 January 2014 at TBA – Host: Mr. Tod Leiweke, TBDA BOD Member & CEO, Tampa Bay Lightning.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business before the Board, a motion was made by the President and seconded by Brig Gen (ret) Chip Diehl to adjourn; the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.