

THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID



**Business Advisory Board Meeting
South Euclid City Hall Community Room
Wednesday March 30, 2011
9:00 a.m.**

MEETING SYNOPSIS

I. Welcome & Introductions

A. Those in attendance introduced themselves and the meeting began.

II. HRCC Bridge to Success Program Information

A. HRCC Executive Director Angie Pohlman presented information on the Bridge to Success Program.

B. This Program is in partnership with the South Euclid-Lyndhurst School District and will provide internships at area businesses for 11 11th-grade Brush High School Students.

C. Host Businesses are still being sought for this summer program. There is a \$600 stipend which the Chamber is looking to partially defer through grant funding.

D. Any business interested in hosting an intern can contact Angie Pohlman at (216) 397-7322 or angie@hrcc.org.

II. Presentation from Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel's Office on Programs to Assist Businesses

A. Deputy Director Nick Ciofani spoke on Programs the Economic Development Division of the Ohio Treasurer's Office is offering to assist Ohio Businesses.

B. The main Program is the GrowNow Program which offers small businesses the opportunity to receive a 3% interest rate reduction on any new loan.

1. All for-profit businesses with 150 or fewer employees are eligible for this program.

2. Businesses must receive pre-approval for the loan from any participating bank and then will become eligible for the interest rate reduction.

3. This Program may expand to non-profit businesses in the future.

II. Presentation from Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel's Office on Programs to Assist Businesses (Con.)

- C. The Treasurer's Office also offers an Eco-Link Program which provides reduced interest rates on loans for residential energy efficiency improvements.
 - 1. This Program is very similar to GrowNow in that approval for the loan is provided by a participating bank who then completes the application with the Treasurer's Office to get a reduction in the interest rate.
 - 2. The Treasurer's Office is working to expand the Eco-Link Program to commercial businesses.
- D. More information on the Programs Offered by Treasurer Mandel's Office can be found by visiting <http://www.tos.ohio.gov/ForBusiness.aspx>.

III. Buckeye Industries Presentation on Styrofoam Recycling and Document Shredding Services

- A. Buckeye Industries is a division of New Avenues to Independence, a non-profit organization which offers employment opportunities and vocational training to individuals with disabilities.
- B. Buckeye Industries offers a free Styrofoam Recycling Service to area businesses and communities. All Styrofoam labeled with a #6 is eligible to be recycled.
 - 1. Business can bring their Styrofoam to the Buckeye Industries Facility located at 33801 Curtis Blvd. in Eastlake.
 - 2. Economic/Service Director Ed Gallagher mentioned that he and the other area Service Directors are working on creating drop-off centers around the area to make it easier for businesses and residents to participate in this program. More information will follow.
 - 3. Contact Project Manager Kent Coleman at (440) 942-1605 or kcoleman@newavenues.net for more information.
- C. Buckeye Industries is also able to offer a discounted document shredding service to area businesses. This service can include leaving shredding bins on-site or picking up the documents and shredding them at a secure facility.
- D. For more information on the document shredding services and other services Buckeye Industries offers contact Chris Behm at (216) 481-1909, cbehm@newavenues.org or visit their website, www.newavenues.net/industries/.

IV. Update on the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District

- A. AED Executive Director Athan Barkoukis provided an update on the Advanced Energy District.
- B. The AED will offer commercial and industrial property owners the ability to install renewable energy technology (solar, wind, geothermal) by providing the money up front to finance the project cost. The property owner then pays the AED back through a property tax assessment.
- C. The AED is in the process of securing a financial consultant and expects to be able to begin financing projects later this year.

IV. Update on the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District (Con.)

- D. If a business/property owner is considering a project, please feel free to contact Michael Love at (216) 691-4205 or mlove@seuclid.com so we can assure the project is included in the first round of financing.
- E. Much more information on the Northeast Ohio AED can be found by visiting their website, www.neoaed.org.

V. New South Euclid On-line Business Directory

- A. The City is in the process of launching a new on-line business directory. Look for it at www.cityofsoutheuclid.com within the next few weeks.
- B. All businesses will have their contact information listed in the Directory. The Directory also has the capability to include photos of your business and a link to your website. If you would like for this information to be included in the Directory, please send it to Michael Love at mlove@seuclid.com.

VI. Question & Answer Session

- A. The next meeting of the Business Advisory Board will likely be in July. Be sure to check your e-mail for details.