

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA
March 3, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alfred Blackmar, D. Copeland, Geniece Granville, Selvin Hollingsworth, Heath Schondelmayer, Chris Wightman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chris Wightman

ALSO PRESENT:

Bill Dudley, Pam Hodge, Tom Horn, Rob McKenna, Deborah Kidder, Jim Livingston, Conner Miller, Jerald Mitchell, Tiffany Newsome, Joe Sanders, Brian Sillitto, Ty Webb, Katherine Kelly

Heath Schondelmayer, Chairman, noting that a quorum was present and proper notice had been given in accordance with the requirements of Georgia law, called the March 3, 2022 meeting to order.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Alfred Blackmar, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the February 10, 2022 meeting attached as Exhibit "A".

FINANCES

- Finances February 2022 – Alfred Blackmar commented on the revenues and expenses. He reported there were no unexpected variances. **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Geniece Granville, the Authority unanimously approved the February 2022 Financial Report attached as Exhibit "B".**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

- Brian Sillitto reported there were 7 leads in February and there are 3 active projects and 24 suspects. He commented on the 7 prospects. He spoke about the recent visit from one of them. He reported that the increased outreach with state project managers, having pad ready sites which will be 3 soon, and having available buildings are helping in new prospects.
- Jerald Mitchell reported that Meghan Richardson is joining the team as Senior Director of Economic Development. He thanked D. Copeland for his willingness to run for the opening on the GDOT Board as a result of the death of Russ Carreker. Bill Dudley spoke about the background of the election of Russ Carreker and commented on the process and the efforts made to get D. Copeland elected; however, Dennis McIntyre was elected. Jerald Mitchell reminded the members of the Chamber goals of 6000 new jobs by 2026 and 500 new members in 5 years. Plans are underway to expand StartUP Columbus and get more into the region. The Chamber is assisting with processing the applications by small businesses, non-profits and hospitality for the ARP funds and then forwarding the completed applications to the City for evaluation and disbursement of funds. Josh Beard is working on a quarterly meeting for the Valley Partnership. The Small Business Forum last week with a keynote speaker and breakout workshops.
- TSPLOST Overview – Jim Livingston gave some history of the current TSPLOST which was passed in 2012 with 23 projects of which 3 are still underway. The new TSPLOST will be voted on May 24, 2022. There were 45 projects including all the projects submitted by Columbus listed for funding. The Columbus projects requested funds are about \$400 million. He reviewed the

Muscogee projects which were submitted by the City Council. He described some of the Muscogee County projects. He talked about the 25% discretionary funds which each county in the region receives. Pam Hodge talked about the amount of discretionary funds from the 2021 TSLOST and how they were used. She reported there will be public meetings in April. Heath Schondelmayer reported that Will Burgin and Karl Douglass have agreed to lead n education campaign for the TSPLOST.

OLD BUSINESS

Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Alfred Blackmar, the Authority unanimously approved a change in the start date of the sublease for the Blanchard Industrial Park property previously approved to December 1, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Alfred Blackmar, the Authority unanimously approved the request from the Japanese Saturday School for \$1000 toward the support of its program attached as Exhibit C.

LEGAL ISSUES

- For this legal item, Selvin Hollingsworth, vice chairman, took over the floor since Heath Schondelmayer had to recuse himself. Upon motion made by Alfred Blackmar and seconded D. Copeland, the Authority approved with Heath Schondelmayer recusing himself the execution of a Security Deed for W. C. Bradley Company to use the Rapids project as equity to support the financing package of its new Riverfront Center project. Documents are on file.
- Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Geniece Granville, the Authority unanimously approved the execution of a Security Deed for Inverness to use its Phase 2 project as equity to support the financing package of its Phase 3 project. Document is on file.
- Upon motion made by Alfred Blackmar and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously approved the request by Stelzenmuller, the tenant, for the Authority to apply for a replat of the property housing Best Buy, Ashley Furniture and Hobby Lobby from one lot into three lots with each business on its own lot. Document is on file.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business the Authority was declared adjourned by the Chairman.



 Selvin Hollingsworth, Chairman

By: 

 Alfred Blackmar, Secretary/Treasurer