

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA  
March 5, 2020

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alfred Blackmar, Selvin Hollingsworth, Jacki Lowe, Heath Schondelmayer, Chris Wightman

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Russ Carreker, Jimmy Yancey

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Richard Baxter, Josh Beard, Pam Hodge, Sendreka Lakes, Rob McKenna, Joe Sanders, Merri Sherman, Brian Sillitto, Katherine Kelly

Heath Schondelmayer, Treasurer, noting that a quorum was present and proper notice had been given in accordance with the requirements of Georgia law, called the March 5, 2020 meeting to order.

**MINUTES**

**Upon motion made by Alfred Blackmar and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the February 6, 2020 meeting attached as Exhibit "A".**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

- Heath Schondelmayer reviewed the reports and explained variances. He noted the reimbursement from the CEDC for the cost of a new roof on the Kodak warehouse. He reported that finances are ahead of budget. **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the Authority unanimously approved the February 2020 Financial Reports attached as Exhibit "B".**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Brian Sillitto spoke about a prospect visit on February 17 and the next steps. He reported that there are several companies interested in the NCR building in Corporate Ridge Business Park. There have been some good leads. The Economic Development Report is attached as Exhibit "C".
- Merri Sherman gave some information about the Sports Council. She presented a slide show about the Columbus Sports Council Project Greenpower Initiative. This is a STEM based initiative which involves youth designing, building and racing electric cars. This program would help to recruit young people to the Columbus region. The Sports Council working to host a closed-street race around the W.C. Bradley building in December. Expect there to be 30 teams from communities coming to Columbus for event. This would be the only closed-street race in the United States. She described the program and what the students learn through participating. The Sports Council are looking for partners to develop this, mentors to go into schools to talk with students, and presentation opportunities where teams can go out to talk to organizations. The Sports Council plans on there being funds for six Goblin cars and six F-24 cars.

**CITY OF COLUMBUS REPORT**

Pam Hodge reported on a presentation to the City Council about Liberty Theater and an assessment of facility has been made of what might to do. The process of moving Health Department to the former Virginia College facility is progressing. She gave updates on transportation projects. Some discussion took place. Evaluations of the Government Center and the SPLOST continue. It is anticipated that a list

will be brought to Council in June. The SPLOST will be on the November ballot and the ESPLOST will be on the March ballot.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Josh Beard gave an update of robotics and military affairs. He reported that Fort Benning did not get the Corps Headquarters. He spoke to some recent news articles and explained that the new growth for Fort Benning is 80-100 people due to standing up the brigade headquarters. There will be some with increases in training. He reported that the information about Martin Army no longer servicing retirees is just a recommendation being studied and not a final decision. He reported that Mayor Henderson and he have been involved with what Senator Perdue calls the Military Affairs Committee which has been restructured. The priority projects at Fort Benning are (1) privatization of storm water and importance for continued use of Lawson Airfield, (2) the demolition of old Martin Army Hospital and (3) robotics efforts. The Army is writing the language for a robotics development center at Fort Benning to focus on small units and air robotics.
- Sendreka Lakes reported that she is helping with Project Sunshine and with two Columbus 2025 projects – (1) talent attraction website [www.amazingcolumbusga.com](http://www.amazingcolumbusga.com) which provides information about Columbus area and (2) the career coaching tool. She explained these and the amazing interns program.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**LEGAL ISSUES**

- **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the Authority unanimously accepted the Hostess Brands Project Agreement Compliance Report.**
- **Upon motion made by Alfred Blackmar and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously ratified the documents assigning the SunBelt RCG Project (Residence Inn) Lease to RAM.**
- **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the Authority unanimously approved the termination of the Berry Plastics 2009 Bond Issue and the transfer of the property to the company.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**OTHER ITEM**

None

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the meeting was adjourned.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Jacki W. Lowe, Secretary

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell D. Carreker, Chair

**NOTE:** These minutes were approved at the April 2, 2020 meeting of the Authority but were not signed since meeting was held via Zoom.