

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA
December 12, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alfred Blackmar, Russ Carreker, Selvin Hollingsworth, Jacki Lowe, Heath Schondelmayer, Chris Wightman, Jimmy Yancey

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Richard Baxter, Josh Beard, Sendreka Lakes, Rob McKenna, Joe Sanders, Brian Sillitto, Ty Webb, Katherine Kelly

Russ Carreker, Chair, noting that a quorum was present and proper notice had been given in accordance with the requirements of Georgia law, called the December 12, 2019 meeting to order.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the November 7, 2019 meeting attached as Exhibit "A".

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Heath Schondelmayer made a few comments about finances. **Upon motion made by Jimmy Yancey and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously approved the November 2019 Financial Reports attached as Exhibit "B".**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Brian Sillitto reported on Project Aloha (First Credit Services) which recently announced a capital investment of \$2 million and 155 new jobs. He reported on a visit that Josh Beard and he made to Hamilton Relay which announced about four years ago. The company is very pleased with Columbus and the quality of employees. They also visited Refreshco which took over Cott and reported that this company is also pleased with Columbus. He reviewed some of the projects nearing announcement with Project Zummit expected soon. He explained the request by Project Zummit to deed some of the acres on the site to the Authority. **Upon motion made by Jimmy Yancey and Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously approved accepting the property from Project Zummit contingent upon a clean environmental report.** He reported that the Conference Hotel special exception use request has been approved by City Council and the MOU has been executed by all parties. Brian Sillitto will check with Tracy Sayers to determine when the renovation of rooms will be done. He gave updates on the active projects and reported on the status of other hotel projects and expected opening dates. The Economic Development Report is attached as Exhibit "C".
- Josh Beard gave an update on the activities with Fort Benning and robotics. There will be a briefing with Senator Perdue and his staff about robotics at Fort Benning and what that would look like. He talked about possible funding which would allow four major exercises annually rather than one. Discussion took place about (1) developing a clear and exciting plan of what are the visions and dreams for robotics at Fort Benning and in the community; (2) GTRI; and (3) what are the educational aspects needed with robotics and who can provide them.
- Ty Webb gave an update on MTP. Parcel 9 has been completed and is being marketed. The mass grading of Parcel 8 is completed and the site shows well. Some draining was done on Parcel 3 and a drain system has been installed. The same will be done on Parcel 19. A cost effective maintenance plan to keep sites looking good. Brian Sillitto reported that Fall Line Business Center is being evaluated of what needs to be done to make marketable.

- Sendreka Lakes reported on the \$3M Jordan High School received for College Career Academy which will align the curriculum with the needs of the community. All courses will lead to either a college or career pathway. The grant starts January 2020. Columbus 2025 led the way in developing a talent hub to help recruit talent to the Columbus and to market Columbus. This talent hub is ready to launch in January 2020 and will use amazingcolumbusga.com.

CITY OF COLUMBUS REPORT

There was no report since Pam Hodge was not present.

OLD BUSINESS

Russ Carreker reported that the Board of Regents will meet in Columbus in April 2020, the Georgia Department of Economic Development will meet in Columbus in August 2020, and Mat Swift has gotten Columbus in position for the Red Carpet Tour in 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

None

LEGAL ISSUES

- Acceptance of Property has already been done.
- **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Alfred Blackmar, the Authority unanimously approved the Project Agreement for Project Aloha (First Credit Services).**
- Rob McKenna reported that all the wording in the documents related to Benning Technology Park will be updated to reflect that Flournoy has sold its interest in the park to Foundation Properties.

OTHER ISSUES


- Richard Baxter reported that Governor Kemp has appointed a person in GDEcD to work only with the film, television, and digital entertainment industry. He provided a summary of the activities with the Film Fund for 2019. He talked about the local financial reports on the films that were made in 2019. He is trying to get vendors to locate in Columbus. There are three contracts for films in 2020 and negotiating for seven more. Discussion took place.
- Jimmy Yancey talked about cybersecurity. Augusta is working in cybersecurity for federal government not local businesses. CSU has been granted by Board of Regents a nexus program in cybersecurity. First class of 20 begins in January 2020. Columbus needs to be talking about what is being done here in cybersecurity for businesses. He reported that CSU is buying a cyber range. Discussion took place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MEETING ADJOURNED

Upon motion made by Jimmy Yancey and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the meeting was adjourned.

By: 
Jacki W. Lowe, Secretary

Approved by: 
Russell D. Carreker, Chair