

VALLEY PARTNERSHIP JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
October 3, 2019 BOARD MINUTES

PRESENT: Joseph Brannan, Kristie Brooks, Meghan Duke, Ron Hinze, Damon Hoyte, Slade Johnson, Tom Zwaga

ALSO PRESENT: Josh Beard, Mayor Skip Henderson, Tom Horn, Katherine Kelly, Sendreka Lakes, Jim Livingston, Brian Sillitto

Ron Hinze, Chairman, called the October 3, 2019 meeting to order.

“MY TAKE ON REGIONALISM” – Ron Hinze introduced Columbus Mayor Skip Henderson. Mayor Henderson stated that he sees the need for a regional approach. One of the Governor’s focus is on rural Georgia which is a focus we already have and need to continue. Even though economic development is regionally focused so should areas like workforce, transportation be where we can help one another. In order to do this, it is necessary to overcome the idea of loss of identity in the structure. He spoke about Columbus 2025 initiative and how it is an asset for the entire region not just Columbus. He hopes the region will be more engaged and talk about what needs to be happening in the region and look at how to strategize the region. This Region is the westward gate into Georgia. He briefly spoke about a meeting with FT. Benning personnel and the Partner to Partner. Questions and Answers took place.

MINUTES - Ron Hinze moved to end of meeting.

FINANCES – Ron Hinze moved to end of meeting.

WELCOME – Ron Hinze welcomed these new members: Kristie Brooks, Superintendent of Chattahoochee County School District; Damon Hoyte, Chattahoochee County Commissioner; and Joseph Brannan, Muscogee County works at PMB.

REORGANIZATION AND STAFF SUPPORT

- Ron Hinze shared a number of his thoughts about reorganization. This item focused on the follow questions: Do we want change?, Who are we?, How are we going to di it? At present the VPJDA leadership team is Brian Anderson, Brian Sillitto, Gary Jones, Ron Hinze and Monte Galbraith. Ron Hinze spoke about the following R’s: Reassess, Retool, Reorganize. He explained what he meant by each. He stated need to broaden scope because we are all different for each other. He also suggested that we review the contract, bylaws, processes and systems. There is need to increase communication. These are 3 action areas he wants members to consider – education, economic growth, and entrepreneurialism. A very good area for most of the members is small to medium size business development.
- Brian Sillitto spoke about where we are as a Chamber and affects reorganization of Chamber staff has had. He talked about key performance indicators which are more than job and capital investments. The VPJDA needs to be more than economic development - more than sites and buildings. The vision needs to be broadened. He wants to find a way to further engage all the partners in the Columbus 2025 Initiative.

PROGRAM OF WORK AREAS

Brain Sillitto talked need to do an updated product analysis (people, assets, marketing). He spoke about the need for broadband. There are 10 work areas which have been identified. He spoke about these. There is a document entitled “Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority Reorganization Community Needs Assessment Form” in the packet. Each member county or city was asked to get the appropriate people together and discuss these areas and complete the document and return. These will be used at the next scheduled meeting – November 21.

There being no further business, the Joint Authority was adjourned.

Approved by:

Ron Hinze, 2019 Chair

Brian Sillitto, Assistant Secretary
