

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA
June 1, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heath Schondelmayer, Selvin Hollingsworth, Charles Ray Sheffield, Travis Chambers, Dallis Copeland, Geniece Granville

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Sanders, Jerald Mitchell, Pam Hodge, Conner Miller, Robert McKenna, Tracey Herring, Heather Chason, Kathryn Quackenbush, Tricia DePadro, Kaylynn Link, Bill Dudley, Corinne Thornton, Christy Bozeman

The meeting was called to order by Heath Schondelmayer.

I. WELCOME

- A. May 4, 2023 Minutes - **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Dallis Copeland, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the May 4, 2023 meeting attached as "Exhibit A".**

II. FINANCES

- A. May Financial Update – Joe Sanders commented on several line items to include millage funding, miscellaneous expenses, and a fund transfer from CEDC. **Upon motion by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Dallis Copeland, the Authority unanimously approved the May 2023 Financial Reports attached as Exhibit "B".**

III. STATE JOB TAX CREDIT REPORT

- A. Tricia DePadro reported on the State Job Tax Credit program:
- Tricia DePadro explained how businesses can take advantage of tax incentives and benefits through the State Job Tax Credit program due to Columbus being designated as a Tier I county, who is eligible, requirements, and how to apply.
 - Tricia DePadro fielded questions on overall State use of the Tax Credit Program and elaborated on the how the program might influence businesses to choose Columbus due to the advantages of the program.
 - Jerald Mitchell commented on the importance of highlighting the tax credit program in the site selection process for prospective businesses.

IV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

- A. Jerald Mitchell presents Economic Development snapshot. He reported the following:
- Jerald discussed 2023 Project Pipeline and goals with an expectation of 10-15% of opportunities materializing. He commented on the most promising target industry sectors including electric vehicle suppliers, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing.
 - Jerald discussed the status of active projects and development of the site plan for Muscogee Technology Park including cleared sites and priority sites. Heath Schondelmayer commented on the number one problem of project development being the speed to market. Jerald reported on the costs of clearing and grading priority sites to capitalize on opportunities. Discussion over the possibilities for sites, profitability, and time frames. Heath Schondelmayer suggested making a joint visit to walk the sites to finalize decisions regarding site development and priorities.

- Conner Miller reported on the robotics initiatives including the CMMC Summit, grant pursuals, and the Chamber's continuous collaboration with CTC and MCSD to develop pathways. Jerald Mitchell commented on developing strategic plan for Robotics and focuses including Cybersecurity, Big Data and Defense Research and Development.
- Conner Miller briefly discussed the PIE Awards event and the upcoming Fall Interactive Workforce Expo in September. Jerald Mitchell commented on seeking sponsorships for the Workforce Expo and its importance to economic development and exposing youth to STEAM possibilities.
- Tracey Herring provided a Small Business snapshot including the upcoming Small Business Summer Series and the status of the ARP Grant Program.

V. CITY OF COLUMBUS REPORT

- A. Pam Hodge briefly reported on the status of the City Hall move and upcoming ribbon cutting in July. She stated the City's budget will go to council in June, and tax notices sent out in May. She reported the appointment of the Interim police chief is resulting in initiatives including partnering with Urban League, and collaborations for youth programs. Discussion over the railway, its future use, and the importance of collaborating with Mobile Southern to maintain railway access for business use.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Nothing significant to report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Heath Schondelmayer commented on the new Development Authority Board member, Laura Gower, currently being out of town but a tour of assets is being planned.

VIII. LEGAL ISSUES

- A. Rob Mckenna reported on the status of the amendment ratification approval for Rivertown Pediatrics and one month extension request for signatures. **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Charles Ray Sheffield, the Authority unanimously approved the amendment ratification for Rivertown Pediatrics.**
- B. Rob Mckenna discussed Foundation Properties wanting to terminate and pay off bonds to transfer property to the Board of Regents. **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Travis Chambers, the Authority unanimously approved the termination of Foundation Properties' bonds.**

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

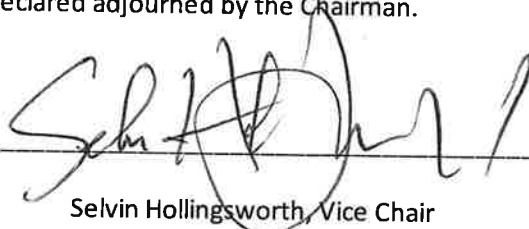
No Executive session called.

X. MEETING ADJOURNED

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



Heath Schondelmayer, Chairman



Selvin Hollingsworth, Vice Chair