

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA
November 5, 2020
Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alfred Blackmar, Russ Carreker, Selvin Hollingsworth, Jacki Lowe, Heath Schondelmayer, Lisa Smith, Chris Wightman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Ed Helton, Pam Hodge, Tom Horn, Sendreka Lakes, Rob McKenna, Jerald Mitchell, Joe Sanders, Brian Sillitto, Katherine Kelly

Russ Carreker, Chairman, noting that a quorum was present and proper notice had been given in accordance with the requirements of Georgia law, called the November 5, 2020 meeting to order.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the October 1, 2020 meeting attached as Exhibit "A".

FINANCES

Heath Schondelmayer reported on the variances in revenue and expenses are on budget. There was discussion about the funds available for site development. Brian Sillitto will check with Pam Hodge as to when SPLOST needs to be spent down and about possible usage of T-SPLOST undesignated funds. **Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority unanimously approved the September 2020 and October 2020 financial reports attached as Exhibit "B".**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Brian Sillitto reviewed Exhibit C. He reported that eight active projects continue and leads were slow last month. He spoke about the projects which have announced and all were local expansions. He reported that staff are reaching out to 190 of our major employers and significant investors (MEI) to check on their vitality and if they have any challenges which the Chamber could help in any way. There are companies with good news. Jerald Mitchell spoke about MEI. Brian Sillitto talked about ways to share the good stories being heard in MEI process through various social media platforms and on Choosecolumbusga.com. Some of these stories can be fed to the local media. H&K will be paying the claw back soon. He reported working with Bill Dudley on economic development items for the legislative priorities. I-14 item will be added to the priorities and it is on the City's list also. Discussion took place about having one group working on this issue rather than several groups not working together. Brian Sillitto and Jerald Mitchell reported on the recent Valley Partnership listening session to meet Jerald Mitchell virtually and to share thoughts on what the partnership means to the partners in the rural areas and what the needs are. The partners will be taking among themselves as to what a successful partnership looks like. Governor Kemp announced Brian Marlowe as the new Deputy Commissioner for Rural Georgia and leader of the Rural Strike Team.
- Sendreka Lakes gave an update on the WOIA funds and that additional information has been requested from the State. These funds are important for economic and workforce development in the community. Data for the Welcome Home Campaign is still coming in from surveys. She reported that even though there is a decrease in the unemployment numbers the civilian labor

force is still volatility which will continue for several quarters. Unemployment rate is improving but still high.

CITY OF COLUMBUS REPORT

Pam Hodge reported there is additional dumping at MTP so City is considering installing cameras out there. Brian Sillitto reported that chains with locks are being added to some of the site to prevent entering the sites. The sales tax continues to improve compared to last year. There is action in TAD applications with three being in process of financial agreement negotiations and one new application. She asked the Authority to let her know if there are any project requests for 16-county T-SPLOST committee. She stated that improvements to MTP could be included. Project requests are due in June. No additional funds will be received from the CARES Act. The applicants have been sent emails that no funds are available. She will get the Authority information about the breakdown of the areas for which businesses were requesting funds.

OLD BUSINESS

The Japanese Saturday School has requested financial support for the school. **Upon motion made by Lisa Smith and seconded by Selvin Hollingsworth, the Authority authorized \$1000 in support of the Japanese Saturday School.**

NEW BUSINESS

None

LEGAL ISSUES

- **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the Authority unanimously approved the assignment of the bond leases for GMA Apartments I, LLC and GMA Apartments II, LLC to TRC Columbus Park, LLC.** Documents are on file.
- **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Heath Schondelmayer, the Authority unanimously approved changing the bond amount from \$14,500,000 to \$15,500,000 on the Inducement Resolution for Columbus Highland Terrace.** Document on file.

OTHER ISSUES

Russ Carreker gave background on the status on the H&K project agreement for local incentives. After a one-time extension of 12 months, the agreement has not been met. It was the consensus of the members that H&K should pay the original amount in the claw back agreement. Brian Sillitto reported that the H&K North American headquarters is now Columbus, Georgia. Jerald Mitchell reported that the Chamber is only exploring location options.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MEETING ADJOURNED

Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Lisa Smith, the meeting of the Authority was adjourned.

By: _____
Jacki W. Lowe, Secretary

Approved by:

Russell D. Carreker, Chair

NOTE: Minutes approved on December 3, 2020 but not signed since meeting was via Zoom.