



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
Wednesday, June 11, 2025

**Commissioners Present:** Pace Halter, Chair; Dan Gilbert, Secretary/Treasurer; Amy Bryan, Miles Greathouse, Michelle Spivey, and Mayor Skip Henderson

**Commissioners Absent:** Sherricka Day, Vice Chair; Lauren Becker, Pete Jones, and Alex Naik

**Staff Present:** Ashley Woitena, Kim Gonzalez, and Tonja Ray-Smith

**Special Invitees Present:** Hayley Tillery-Columbus GA Convention & Trade Center, Merri Sherman-Columbus Sports Council, and Steve Morse-Uptown Columbus, Inc.

**Call to Order .....Pace Halter**

- The June 2025 meeting was called to order at 8:31am.

**Secretary Treasurer Report.....Dan Gilbert**

- Dan Gilbert presented the consent agenda that included minutes and financials for the May 2025 meetings. He asked if there were any questions or discussion. There being none, a motion was made by Amy Bryan to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Miles Greathouse. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

**Chair Report.....Pace Halter**

- Mr. Halter provided an update on the Ernst and Young study for the regional prosperity initiative, which will involve small group meetings with civic organization leaders, government officials, and other stakeholders, followed by a larger meeting after July 4th. The planning process is expected to take the rest of the year.
- Pace also discusses recent meetings with Merri Sherman and her board chair regarding organizational structure.
- He also discussed a visit he and Ashley took to the NIM to improve relationships with the military base. They are working on better communication with soldiers and their families about the benefits of visiting Columbus.
- An initiative with Carl Vincent Institute from UGA was mentioned. This initiative is to promote regional tourism, which could benefit Columbus as a hub for visitors to surrounding counties.

- The members of the Board were asked if there should be a July 2025 meeting, due to summer vacations and travel schedules. A motion was made by Michelle Spivey to forgo the July 2025 meeting, seconded by Mayor Skip Henderson. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

**President's Report.....Ashley Woitena**

- Ms. Woitena introduced Tonja Ray-Smith, Director of Sales, as a new team member.
- Ashley mentioned that Visit Columbus GA has implemented a staff policy to check Columbus Airport (CSG) first for flights, with certain exceptions. The policy aims to support the airport's efforts to recruit more airlines.
- Updates on various completed and in-progress initiatives, including organizational assessments, technology upgrades, and marketing efforts were provided. She reported on recent travel writer visits and upcoming FAM trips focused on meetings and conventions.
- Publications in the Georgia Trend magazine which include an article on Ashley Woitena and a page advertisement from VisitColumbusGA were given to the board members.
- Amber Clark, Airport Director, was introduced. She explained the upcoming runway construction and the importance of increasing air traffic through Columbus to attract more airlines and improve flight options.

**Adjournment.....Pace Halter**

- With no further business, Mr. Halter adjourned the meeting at 9:29am.