

MEETING MINUTES FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA  
June 5, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Selvin Hollingsworth, Laura Gower, Geniece Granville, Audrey Tillman, Doug Jenkins

MEMBER(S) NOT PRESENT: Will White and Charles Ray Sheffield

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Sanders, Rob McKenna, Pam Hodge, Conner Miller, Amber Clark/CSG Director, Eric McDonald/Ga Power, Destinee Williams and Tracey Hadley/River Valley Regional Commission, Dean Deborah Kidder/CSU, Jennifer Bickerstaff/UW-C4C, Christy Bozeman/Regional PM, Ashley Woitera/Visit Columbus, Rebecca White/Community Affairs, Andy Hilmes/Choose Columbus, Natalie Bradley/Flint Energy, Pace Halter/WC Bradley, Rebecca White/Community Affairs, Tom Horn/CWW, Savannah Godowns and Kevin Scott/Rob McKenna Interns

The meeting was called to order by Selvin Hollingsworth at 8:30am

I. WELCOME

- a. May 1, 2025, Minutes - **Having been distributed prior to the meeting and upon motion made by Audrey Tillman and seconded by Doug Jenkins, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes for May 1, 2025 meeting attached as "Exhibit A."**

II. FINANCES

- a. May 2025 Financial Update – Joe Sanders reviewed the P&L and balance sheet.  
**Upon motion made by Doug Jenkins and seconded by, Audrey Tillman the Authority unanimously approved the May 2025 Financial Reports attached as "Exhibit B."**

III. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – CHOOSE COLUMBUS REPORT

- a. Updates provided by Missy Kendrick:
  - 1. Missy and Selvin visited with the State GDECD
  - 2. Incentive Review Program will be re-evaluated, it currently reflects the 2016 data
  - 3. Public call for available Properties and Buildings, we are offering free advertisement
  - 4. Proposing a Public/Private partnership for the Spec Buildings and the Irregular Shaped Parcels
    - i. We will offer to defer the cost of the land until the building is sold or leased – then they can bill back into sale with the prospect.
    - ii. We can send out a Request for Proposals to the interested developers
  - 5. Fall Line Site Evaluation/HUD Grant with United Way for site development
    - i. The grant money will remain with United Way for our usage
    - ii. We will submit invoices to United Way to administer the funds
    - iii. We will need to identify the sites to apply the funds
  - 6. Existing Industry Database/BREP, the retention and expansion program, a project in the works with Christy Bozeman and Eric McDonald
  - 7. Strategic Planning
    - i. We are building an internal strategic plan
    - ii. We will bring in a consultant to facilitate the strategic plan
    - iii. A larger strategic plan will be developed to include Columbus 2025 and the community
- b. Andy Hilmes provided and update on the Exide Battery Site
  - 1. Near the new 185 Interchange
  - 2. 45 acres with 7 different parcels
  - 3. Exide Battery went bankrupt in 2020

4. This site went into a Trust to handle the clean-up
5. The Trust is in the process of selling to the new owner, it's a Liability Transfer
6. The new owner will receive EPA funding for the remaining clean-up
7. Possible opportunity for the Development Authority

c. C4C/Workforce Summit Update

1. The third and final summit will be Tues, Sep 9 at the Cunningham Center, CSU with the following focus:
  - i. Regional Housing Authority Study - GA Tech
  - ii. Child Care Project - United Way
  - iii. Workforce Development Strategies
    - a. Muscogee County Internship & Externship (aligning employers with educators)
    - b. Columbus Tech Vectr Center

IV. GUEST SPEAKER: Amber Clark, Airport Director shared a presentation on Air Service Development at Columbus Airport

V. CITY REPORT

- a. City updates by Pam Hodge:
  1. Budget process is moving forward
  2. The total millage remains the same
  3. Projects are moving forward and on schedule
  4. Sheriff building has been completed
  5. Working on the Fire Administration Building
  6. City Hall will be completed Aug/Sep 2025

VI. Valley Partnership

- a. Missy has spoken with Mayor Skip Henderson
- b. Currently there are 4 representatives from each community – need to reduce
- c. Review the funding structure
- d. The goal is to get the Joint Development Authority up and running again
  1. Selvin suggested rotating the meetings between each community

VII. Legal Items:

- a. Legal update by Rob McKenna:
  1. Bond Resolution for Project Omega Plastics  
**Upon motion made by Geniece Granville and seconded by, Audrey Tillman the Authority unanimously approved the bond resolution.**

VIII. Government Affairs:

IX. Upcoming Events

X. NEW BUSINESS – Nothing to report

XI. OLD BUSINESS – Nothing to report

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Executive session requested after the DA meeting - **Upon motion made by Audrey Tillman and seconded by Laura Gower, the Authority unanimously approved to move into the Executive Session to discuss staffing and one project.**



Selvin Hollinsworth, Chairman



Geniece Granville, Secretary