



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Commissioners Present; Lauren Becker, Chair; Jamie Waters, Vice Chair; Miles Greathouse, Secretary/Treasurer, Sherricka Day, Dan Gilbert, Pace Halter, and Pete Jones

Commissioners Absent: Mamie Pound, Donna Hix, and Mayor Skip Henderson

Special Invitees: Merri Sherman, Columbus Sports Council; Ed Wolverton, Uptown Columbus

Staff Present: Peter Bowden, Kim Gonzalez, Shelby Guest

Call to Order Lauren Becker

- The November 2022 meeting was called to order at 3:30pm.

Approval of Minutes & Financials Miles Greathouse

- Miles Greathouse presented the information for Minutes and Financials for the August '22 meeting, as well as Financials for September and October (no meeting held in September due to travel conflicts). There were no minutes from the October meeting due to a lack of a quorum. Mr. Greathouse reminded the Board approval of Minutes & Financials is by way of consent agenda and asked if there were any questions or discussions. There being none, a motion was made by Dan Gilbert to approve the August '22 Minutes & Financials and the Financials for September and October. The motion was seconded by Jamie Waters. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Chair's Report..... Lauren Becker

- Ms. Becker introduced Bo Taber from the accounting firm, Robinson-Grimes CPA for a review of VisitColumbusGA's annual audit. Mr. Taber presented each Board member with a copy of the final audit, when he then went through the auditor's report, basic financials statements, and compliance section. According to Mr. Taber, it was a clean audit with no outstanding issues. Ms. Becker asked for any questions or comments and there being none, she called for a vote to

approve the audit as submitted. A motion was made by Miles Greathouse and seconded by Sherricka Day. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

- For the next item in the Chair’s Report, Ms. Becker reminded the Board there is no meeting held in December, but VisitColumbusGA staff has suggested a Holiday Open House for Board members and tourism partners in place of the regular meeting -- December 21 at 3:30pm. This event will be held in the main lobby of the Historic YMCA Building.
- Ms. Becker then introduced Merri Sherman, the Executive Director of the Columbus Sports Council for an annual review from FY 2022. The report included update on various projects and events, as well as an update on the renovation and improvement efforts the organization is spearheading for the South Commons Softball Complex. This renovation is being done in two phases. Ms. Sherman stated the economic impact of the events at South Commons is in excess of \$4.7 million. (See attached presentation for full report.)

President’s Report.....Peter Bowden

- Due to time constraints, Mr. Bowden offered to table the report for FY 2023 First Quarter Performance and Forecast in order to allow ample time for the presentation and comments.
- As a follow up to a question asked about lead and sales conversion asked in the October meeting, Mr. Bowden reported in the last fiscal year there were 137 leads submitted and out of those, 109 converted to definite business, meaning 80% of those leads turned into actual business.
- Mr. Bowden recognized the work of Kim Gonzalez and her fiduciary skills regarding VisitColumbusGA’s accounting work, especially working with the auditors on the FY 2022 audit.

Other Business.....Group

- No Other Business was discussed.

Adjournment.....Lauren Becker

With no further business, Ms. Becker adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.