

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA
May 6 , 2021
Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Peter Bowden, Steve Davis, Austin Gibson, Pam Hodge, Tom Horn, Sendreka Lakes, Jamie Loyd, 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 May 6, 2021 meeting to order.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Chris Wightman and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting attached as Exhibit "A".

FINANCIAL REPORT

Heath Schondelmayer reviewed the revenues and expenses and explained some variances. Year-to-date net income is ahead of budget. The Highland Terrace project should close in July. He reported that the proposed budget for next year is being developed and will be presented at the July meeting. Brian Sillitto reported on the variance in the MTP line item. Joe Sanders spoke about slides which presented the comparison of the millage fund 2021 versus 2020, the YTD revenue by categories, the YTD expenses by categories and the YTD net income. He reported other development authorities are being contacted to get a comparison as requested.

Upon motion made by Jacki Lowe and seconded by Alfred Blackmar, the Authority unanimously approved the April 2021 Financial Report attached as Exhibit "B".

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

- Brian Sillitto reported on global business attraction. He reviewed the 3 leads in April, 4 projects, 13 prospects and 19 suspects. He gave an update on the Healthcare Council meeting and probable next steps. Jerald Mitchell commented on the meeting and goals. Brian Sillitto reported that the results from the Mass Economics session last month are expected in late May. Jerald Mitchell also commented on the session and expectation of getting strategies for next direction in economic development. Brian Sillitto reported that Columbus Airport announced last week the return of American Airlines service to Dallas and Charlotte. The airport renovations are scheduled to be completed in July. These items fit well in the Industrial Mobility Study area. He reported that consultant visits have been scheduled in-person meetings with CBRE, Ernst & Young and Navigator Consulting in Atlanta. Jerald Mitchell added that he and Brian have met with Life Science and Digital Media teams of GDEcD. Plans are being made to get Pat Wilson and his team to visit Columbus.
- Sendreka Lakes gave update on the unemployment data where the data from some areas are not the last numbers. She gave an update on the Construction Ready program of Construction Education Foundation of Georgia which is working to have a bootcamp here this summer. Conversations are taking place with Mayor Henderson about using workforce investment dollars to continue program with two cohorts. The ED² program end May 26. She reported on efforts to help small businesses like connecting with SBA, SCORE, StartUP Columbus, and SBDC. She talked about Equity Atlas and how racial disparities may negatively affect future prosperity.
- Jerald Mitchell reported that the Savannah Economic Development Authority has more assets than we do. Efforts are underway to get information about Augusta, Charleston and Chattanooga for comparisons. He is continuing with regionalism with Chattahoochee, Marion and Harris Counties and West Point and Phenix City. He reported that the Chamber is having pop-up membership events. He

reported the following in area of Government Affairs: small business update to City Council, \$5.3M in operating funds for Mercer University, engaging with Senator Ossoff and Senator Warnock’s local staff, and local NDO delayed for further study. Russ Carreker talked about possible upcoming areas where the Authority may need to provide funding such as the Columbus 2025 capital fundraising campaign.

TOURISM RECOVERY PROGRAM

Peter Bowden gave a slide presentation about Tourism is Economic Development. He talked about how the pandemic affected tourism in area, continuing marketing through pandemic by using various social media and virtual methods and providing information to the local community, tourism recovery plan, and the strategy of how to restart tourism after pandemic. He talked about the data indicating positive responses from planners to bring meetings and conventions back to Columbus.

CITY OF COLUMBUS REPORT

Pam Hodge reported that the proposed is \$296.2M which is being reviewed by the Council. She stated that FY 20 ended favorable with over 100 reserve days and sales tax continues to increase. City is still waiting for guidelines from American Rescue Plan but do anticipate revenue recovery. The T-SPOST project priority list expected to go to Council next week which will be forwarded to Regional Committee for their consideration. The SPLOST list will go to Council in May with public meetings in June for vote in November 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Done earlier

LEGAL ISSUES

- **Upon motion made by Heath Schondelmayer and seconded by Lisa Smith, the Authority unanimously approved the Termination of Land Use Restriction (LUR) Agreement for Victory Crossing Apartments.** Documents are on file.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

OTHER ITEMS

Jamie Loyd announced a pilot program called Mayor’s Summer Youth Internship Program where 40 students from Jordan Career Academy and/or Carver will have classes for six weeks in morning and work with an employer in afternoon. At end of camp the students will earn Certified Maintenance Apartment Technician or Certified Logistics Technician.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Upon motion made by Heath Schondelmayer and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the Authority meeting was adjourned.

By: _____
Jacki W. Lowe, Secretary

Approved by:

Russell D. Carreker, Chair

NOTE: These minutes were approved at the June 3, 2021 but have not been signed since meeting was via Zoom.