

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA  
February 4 , 2021  
Via Zoom

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

none

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Ben Adams, Josh Beard, Peter Bowden, Austin Gibson, Pam Hodge, Tom Horn, Sendreka Lakes, Jim Lovett, Jamie Loyd, Rob McKenna, Jerald Mitchell, 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 February 4, 2021 meeting to order.

**MINUTES**

**Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Chris Wightman, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the January 7 and 19, 2021 meetings attached as Exhibit "A".**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Heath Schondelmayer reviewed the income and expenses and explained some variances. He pointed out that the YTD net income was ahead of budget. **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Alfred Blackmar, the Authority unanimously approved the January 2021 Financial Report attached as Exhibit "B".**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

- Brian Sillitto reported that of the 52 leads in 2020 two-thirds of the manufacturing leads were looking for an available building. He reported that January was a very active month. The activities are reported in the Economic Development report attached as Exhibit "C". He spoke about the eight leads and gave updates on several of the prospects and the active projects.
- Sendreka Lakes gave updates on workforce development. She spoke about the trending in the unemployment rates. Columbus MSA is stabilizing. In the next few weeks, she will be using a different style of reporting.
- Josh Beard reported he is continuing to make contact with Chamber investors and determining how the Chamber can assist them. Jerald Mitchell reported that Josh Beard is the point of contact for the PPP to help companies get through the process of applying for PPP.
- Jerald Mitchell reported that in the MEI it was found that 90% of the follow-up activity involved workforce development. Therefore, there will be some shifting in how Sendreka Lakes relates to the investors. There will be some strategic planning probably in March. One area which needs to be considered is how we target industries which are compatible with Columbus. The Chamber is also looking at how to better support small businesses.

**CITY OF COLUMBUS REPORT**

Pam Hodge reported that the FY 2022 budget process has begun. There is still an increase in sales taxes. The occupation tax is maintaining. T-SPLOST projects are being put together. She asked that any projects the Authority has for consideration be sent to her. As requested, she will add the Lynch Road

Manchester Expressway interchange to the list for consideration. Russ Carreker reported that he is being considered for the Georgia DOT Board and the importance of having someone from Columbus on the Board. The vote is Wednesday.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Russ Carreker reported that Jerald Mitchell, Brian Sillitto and he have been talking about how to integrate and utilize the Authority board members better in doing economic development.

**LEGAL ISSUES**

- **Upon motion made by Selvin Hollingsworth and seconded by Jacki Lowe, the Authority unanimously approved the execution of a License Agreement among the City, the Columbus Building Authority, the Development Authority and Path-Tec for use of the 0.8 acre of MTP Parcel 2 for temporary parking in support of the Path-Tec expansion project.** Document is on file.
- Rob reported that the Highland Terrace project will probably close in May.

**OTHER ISSUES**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

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

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jacki W. Lowe, Secretary

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell D. Carreker, Chair

NOTE: The February 4, 2021 minutes were approved at the March 4, 2021 meeting. Meeting was via Zoom; therefore, they are not signed.