



DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

Retail Development Sub-Committee Meeting

MEETING MINUTES – September 26, 2014

*Center for Trade & Tourism
1000 Business Boulevard, Evans, GA 30809*

Committee Members (those absent indicated with an asterisk (*)) :

Rick Evans, *Chair*
Doug Duncan

Jean Garniewicz
Hugh Hollar

Staff (those absent indicated with an asterisk (*))

Robbie Bennett, *Executive Director*
Karen Eyink, *Executive Assistant*

Community Leaders & Guests:

Michael Rorick, *Citizen*

I. Call to Order & Welcome

Chairman Rick Evans called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and declared a quorum present.

II. Reading and Approval of Agenda

Chairman Evans asked the committee to review and approve the agenda for the September 26, 2014 Retail Development Sub-Committee meeting. Motion made by Jean Garniewicz to approve the agenda. Hugh Hollar seconded the motion. Motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Evans asked the committee to review and approve the minutes for the July 18, 2014 Retail Development Sub-Committee meeting. Motion made by Hugh Hollar to approve the minutes. Jean Garniewicz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IV. Old Business

Robbie gave an overview of Gainesville-Hall County, which the retail committee spoke to Tim Evans, Vice President of Economic Development – Chamber of Commerce previously on a conference call. The retail sub-committee compared both the similarities and differences of each county.

V. New Business

Before the conference call to guest speaker Jon Baggett, Director of Dorchester County, Economic Development, the committee discussed Dorchester County, which is similar to Columbia County; Dorchester County is a suburban area of Charleston. Robbie gave an update on Dorchester County's demographics, population, median household income, education graduation rates, retail sales, building permits, etc.

During the conference call, Jon Baggett shared many factors for the growth in Dorchester County.

- A. Population doubled since 2004 to 160K
- B. Prime real estate and prices are reasonable
- C. Workforce development training
- D. Existing industry expansion activity
- E. Large amount of acreage for work communities/office space
- F. Tech schools and Career schools (high school vocational program) and internship programs
- G. A diverse mix of retail – big box and high end stores to entrepreneurial type retail. The Summerville area is seeing an increase in boutique restaurants and craft breweries.

VI. Updates

For the next retail committee meeting, Chairman Evans asked to invite someone from the hotel industry as a guest speaker. More information will be forthcoming for the next Retail Development Sub-Committee meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Evans adjourned the committee meeting.

Submitted by:

Robbie Bennett, Executive Director
Development Authority of Columbia County