

Development Authority of Columbia County

Center for Trade & Tourism

1000 Business Boulevard

Evans, Georgia 30809

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES – May 1, 2013

Center for Trade & Tourism

1000 Business Boulevard

Evans, GA 30809

Board Attendees (those absent indicated with an asterisk (*)) :

Mark Wills, Chairman

Stan Shepherd

Hugh Hollar

Doug Duncan, Vice-Chairman

Jean Garniewicz

David Duncan*

Rick Evans, Secretary-Treasurer

Phil Gaffney

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

Robbie Bennett, Executive Director

Karen Eyink, Executive Assistant

Douglas D. Batchelor, Legal Counsel

Guests Present:

Ron Cross, *Commissioner*

Paul Myers, *MAU*

Bill Morris, *Commissioner*

Michael Rorick, *Citizen*

I. Call to Order & Welcome

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

II. Reading and Approval of Agenda

Chairman Wills asked the Board to review and approve the agenda for the May 1, 2013 DACC board meeting. Motion made by Phil Gaffney to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Doug Duncan. Motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Wills asked the Board to review and approve the minutes for the March 27, 2013 DACC board meeting. Motion made by Phil Gaffney to approve the minutes. Doug Duncan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IV. Financials – Rick Evans

From the Statement of Net Assets – March 31, 2013, Total Current Assets are \$647,329.13 includes Investment in the Horizon South Industrial Bldg. (Spec Bldg.) of \$290,000.02. Total cash in Checking/Savings - \$353,909.94 and Total Liabilities - \$411.02. Statement of Activities Actual vs. Budget - Nine Months Ended – March 31, 2013, revenue and expenses are on track for the 2013 budget.

Doug Duncan made a motion to approve the March 31, 2013 financials. Jean Garniewicz seconded the motion. Motion approved.

V. Chairman's Report – Mark Wills

Chairman Wills mentioned he received a resignation letter from Board Member Sonny McDowell effective immediately; the board discussed who to fill the open seat. Chairman Wills gave an update on the 2013 Masters – Augusta Showcase, Urban Outfitters, Carolina Pottery and the Opportunity Zone in Columbia County. In addition, during upcoming board meetings, the DACC will be using technology and the LCD screen instead of printing the agenda.

VI. Committee Reports – Mark Wills

Phil Gaffney, Chairman of the Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee mentioned there would be a short committee meeting following the DACC board meeting.

Stan Shepherd, Chairman of the Business Recruitment and Incentive Program Committee mentioned the committee is starting the process of looking primarily at the incentive side and then marketing. Robbie Bennett brings a wealth of knowledge to the committee with a “consultant look” at the current packages and has offered suggestions.

Rick Evans, Chairman of the Retail Development Sub-Committee mentioned the committee would meet on Friday, May 24 at 7:30 am at the DACC office.

Doug Duncan, Chairman of Property Development Committee reported on the work being done at the retention pond in Grovetown. Doug Batchelor, Legal Counsel is waiting on the plat from the county.

VII. Economic Development – Robbie Bennett

Robbie Bennett gave an update on the 2013 Masters – Augusta Showcase and mentioned the DACC came in under budget. The event went well with guests attending from GA Power, GDEcD, regional consultants and project managers from other utility companies. Sue Parr, President and CEO of Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce, asked the DACC to be one of the local hosts at the Red Carpet event.

Urban Outfitters locating in Columbia County will be good to grow the opportunity zone; the opportunity zone does make a huge difference. Robbie Bennett mentioned that how the DACC will use and market the opportunity zone to existing industries will be a key factor in what happens from a redevelopment standpoint. Robbie has received phone calls from local companies already in the opportunity zone, inquiring how they can benefit and what opportunities are available.

Robbie Bennett attended BIO International Convention in Chicago, IL on April 22 – 25. BIO is the largest international trade exhibition for biotechnology and life sciences. Georgia Regents University sponsored a booth giving the Development Authority the opportunity not to incur costs. Robbie met with several consultants in Chicago and had a conversation with a consultant about the county's data center capabilities and fiber network. In addition, Robbie attended a reception hosted by Georgia Innovation Crescent and met fifteen consultants; this was an invaluable reception for him to attend. While in Chicago, Robbie made an existing industry visit to Serta and met with Jay Patel, Chief Manufacturing Officer, he oversees all operations going on in the manufacturing world.

Upcoming Events:

GA Power – Developer’s Day Bus Tour is May 7 – 8. GA Power will bring between 20-30 project managers to the region, visiting 13 counties; this will be a good event to showcase Columbia County. On May 8, the DACC will host a luncheon at the Rhodes Murphy building.

On May 15, Robbie will attend the three-day GEDA Spring Workshop on Jekyll Island, GA. GEDA awarded Robbie with a \$600 scholarship to attend the workshop, much appreciation to GEDA.

The ICSC (International Council of Shopping Centers) 2013 RECON will be held in Las Vegas, NV on May 19 – 22. The DACC will not have a booth this year, Robbie will walk the convention floor promoting Columbia County, and this will be beneficial in networking.

VIII. Old Business – Mark Wills

Doug Batchelor asked for signatures on the Quitclaim Deed for the retention pond from Mark Wills, Chairman and Rick Evans, Secretary of the Development Authority. Once receiving the second plat, it showed an additional 76.25 acres added.

IX. New Business – Mark Wills

None at this time.

X. Calendar of Events – Mark Wills

The next Development Authority board meeting is scheduled for May 29, 2013 at 7:30 am at the DACC’s office – Center for Trade & Tourism, 1000 Business Boulevard, Evans, GA, in Conference Room A.

XI. Public Comment

Commissioner Ron Cross commended the Board and Doug Duncan from the Search Committee for the hiring of Robbie Bennett. Commissioner Cross said that Robbie has brought an excitement and new presence on existing and future projects. Robbie has been an asset already and will continue to be.

Michael Rorick, citizen of Columbia County asked a question about the public receiving copies of the financials and agenda/minutes from the board meetings. Robbie Bennett mentioned the DACC would be adding this information to the web site for the public.

Jean Garniewicz, DACC Board Member gave an update on a one-day development authority training class in Savannah which she attended on April 5. The Carl Vinson Institute of Government sponsored the class. Mrs. Garniewicz spoke highly of the class and invited the institute to hold future classes in Columbia County.

XII. Closed Session – Mark Wills

No closed session was noted.

XIII. Adjournment

Chairman Wills adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by:

Mark Wills, Chairman
Development Authority of Columbia County