

**Development Authority of Columbia County**

Center for Trade & Tourism

1000 Business Boulevard

Evans, Georgia 30809

(706) 312-1375

www.choosecolumbiacounty.com



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES – May 29, 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:**

Bill Morris, *Commissioner*

Tammy Shepherd, *CC Chamber*

Thom Tuckey, *CSRA Alliance Ft. Gordon*

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 29, 2013 DACC board meeting. Motion made by Rick Evans to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Jean Garniewicz. Motion carried.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Wills asked the Board to review and approve the minutes for the May 1, 2013 DACC board meeting. Motion made by Rick Evans to approve the minutes. Jean Garniewicz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**IV. Financials – Rick Evans**

From the Statement of Net Assets – April 30, 2013, Total Assets are \$650,566.85 includes Investment in the Horizon South Industrial Bldg. (Spec Bldg.) of \$287,916.69. Total cash in Checking/Savings - \$357,676.82, Account Receivables - \$4,973.34 and Total Liabilities - \$928.28. Statement of Activities by Class - Ten Months Ended – April 30, 2013, \$225,059.75 in total income, \$213,364.39 in total expense and net income of \$11,695.36.

Doug Duncan made a motion to approve the April 30, 2013 financials. Hugh Hollar seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**V. Chairman's Report – Mark Wills**

Chairman Wills mentioned Barry Paschal, Publisher of The Columbia County News-Times is retiring from the newspaper; he will be missed. A lot of activity taking place for the committees of the Existing Business and Workforce Development and Retail Development Sub-Committee.

**VI. Committee Reports – Mark Wills**

Rick Evans, Chair of the Retail Development Sub-Committee gave an update on the May 24 committee meeting. Two guests attended the meeting, Frank Neal, Grovetown's City Planner/Redevelopment Manager and Steve Collins, realtor from Blanchard & Calhoun Commercial.

Stan Shepherd, Chairman of the Business Recruitment and Incentive Program Committee mentioned the committee is waiting on meetings to be scheduled with state project managers. The committee is looking towards the marketing side and figuring out what they can do for the county's broadband network. In addition, the committee has had preliminary meetings with the county administrator concerning incentives.

Doug Duncan, Chairman of Property Development Committee reported that Doug Batchelor, Legal Counsel would check into the county's signature on the Quitclaim Deed for the retention pond property in Grovetown.

**VII. Economic Development – Robbie Bennett**

Robbie Bennett gave an update on his recent travels during the month of May attending conferences in representing the Development Authority.

Conference and Event Information:

May 15 - GEDA Spring Workshop on Jekyll Island, GA. During the workshop, Robbie spoke to state project managers; the DACC will contact soon to discuss ideas and recommendations for Tier 4 incentives. This information will be helpful in formulating an incentive package to present to the county.

May 19 - 22, the ICSC (International Council of Shopping Centers) 2013 RECON conference in Las Vegas, NV; ICSC is the largest retail show in the world. Prior to the conference, Robbie scheduled meetings and was able to walk around the Leasing Mall (the main show) and talk to different groups; a few good leads came out of those discussions.

Robbie shared information on DACC's new Maximizer CRM (Customer Relationship Management) tracking software tool, which was purchased initially for \$600 and a monthly charge of \$59. This system will be very beneficial in tracking contacts and will be implemented shortly.

**VIII. Old Business – Mark Wills**

None at this time.

**IX. New Business – Mark Wills**

None at this time.

**X. Calendar of Events – Mark Wills**

The next Development Authority board meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 26, 2013 at the DACC's office. This location may change to the City of Grovetown or the City of Harlem, will update later.

**XI. Public Comment**

Commissioner Bill Morris mentioned the county is working on fiscal year 2014 budget.

Michael Rorick, citizen of Columbia County mentioned that Kohl's department store would not be going into the furniture business.

Tammy Shepherd, Director of the CC Chamber of Commerce mentioned an event being held at the Center for Trade & Tourism on Tuesday, June 4. Dr. Ricardo Azziz, President of Georgia Regents University, will speak on the economic development prospects for the university. This event is by invitation only; board members of the Development Authority, CVB, Chamber and additional invited guests will receive invitations. The event will commence at 7:30 am with breakfast provided.

Thom Tuckey, CSRA Alliance for Fort Gordon said furlough letters went out during the week to over 8000 civilians at Fort Gordon. Furloughs will start in July, one day for 11 weeks; this will have an impact on the community in terms of shopping, restaurants, etc. Mr. Tuckey mentioned that over the next 2-3 years, Fort Gordon is going to increase by 3000 soldiers and civilians.

**XII. Closed Session – Mark Wills**

No closed session was noted.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Chairman Wills adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by:

Robbie Bennett, Executive Director  
Development Authority of Columbia County