



DACC BOARD MEETING MINUTES – July 24, 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	
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:

Thom Tuckey, <i>CSRA Alliance Ft. Gordon</i>	Nayna Mistry, <i>Development Services</i>
Randy DuTeau, <i>CVB</i>	Michael Rorick, <i>Citizen</i>
Tammy Shepherd, <i>CC Chamber</i>	

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 July 24, 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 June 26, 2013 DACC board meeting. Motion made by Jean Garniewicz to approve the minutes. Hugh Hollar seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IV. Financials – Rick Evans

From the Statement of Net Assets – June 30, 2013, Total Assets are \$664,156.93 includes Investment in the Horizon South Industrial Bldg. (Spec Bldg.) of \$283,750.03. Total cash in Checking/Savings - \$376,665.87, Account Receivables - \$3,419.17 and Total Liabilities - \$3,455.47. Statement of Activities by Class – Twelve Months Ended – June 30, 2013, \$274,788.01 in total income, \$252,413.16 in total expense and net income of \$22,374.85.

Hugh Hollar made a motion to approve the June 30, 2013 financials. Jean Garniewicz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. Chairman's Report – Mark Wills

Chairman Wills moved forward to committee reports.

VI. Committee Reports – Mark Wills

Stan Shepherd, Chair of the Business Recruitment and Incentive Programs Committee reported the committee met on July 10 with Robbie and had a “101 class” on the process and understanding of industrial revenue bonds. In addition during the meeting, the committee discussed the web site, Chair Shepherd asked the board and guests to look at the Development Authority's web site and make recommendations coming from a marketing stand point. Robbie Bennett commented on a few changes he's made to the web site already but would like to see better flow of information and be an easy tool for site consultants. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14 at 8:00 am.

Rick Evans, Chair of the Retail Development Sub-Committee mentioned the committee met on July 17 and discussed the web site as well. The retail committee would like to participate on a survey being created by the Existing Business Development and Workforce Development committee; the survey could be used for large and small retailers. The committee discussed site visits for the retail committee members and DACC board members. In addition, every other month the committee would invite a guest to come and speak on their successes in retail.

Phil Gaffney, Chair of the Existing Business Development and Workforce Development Committee commented on the three zones of emphasis for the committee – existing business survey formatted, concluded and prepared for issuance soon, existing business recognition luncheon organized and hope to have launched in October, and the formation of an existing business council with an initial meeting in the fall.

Mark Wills committee member of the Property Development Committee mentioned the committee met and discussed a few items pertaining to property opportunities for both the DACC and county and to develop goals for the committee i.e. a sign at Augusta Technical College - Grovetown Campus.

VII. Economic Development – Robbie Bennett

Robbie Bennett mentioned a training session for local development authorities is scheduled for Tuesday, July 31 in Atlanta. The event is being hosted by Dan McRae of Seyfarth Shaw LLP, GA Power and a few other companies. The class is a continuation of Development Authority 101 and is being called Development Authority 201. The class will answer questions from board members or executive directors and will help guide local communities from an education standpoint.

Columbia County has been in the news recently; an article from the Augusta Chronicle ranks Columbia County as No. 7 the Healthiest County in the State of Georgia. The ranking is based from the 2013 County Health Rankings, an annual report produced by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

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NerdWallet a firm from California did a study on The Best Towns in Georgia for Young Families. Evans ranked #1 and Martinez # 8 for The Best Places for Young Families.

Robbie held a meeting at the DACC office with Adela Kelley from GDEcD, William Edwards from GA Power, Walter Sprouse, Executive Director of Augusta Economic Development Authority and Jerry Long, Executive Director of Burke County Development Authority. Discussions included organizing a 1-day regional workforce summit and would invite Georgia Department of Labor to speak about opportunities in the labor force and Quick Start training opportunities.

VIII. Old Business – Mark Wills

Robbie reviewed the industrial revenue bond fees and recommended lease factor rates. The purpose is for the DACC to take a role in the policy development, the ultimate policy will come from the county's Tax Assessors office supported by the Board of Commissioners and Columbia County Board of Education. Stan Shepherd made a motion upon review and approval from Development Authority's legal counsel that the recommendations for the fee structure move forward to the County Administrator and the County Commission to present to the Tax Assessors office as presented by Robbie Bennett. Jean Garniewicz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IX. New Business – Mark Wills

Same as above.

X. Calendar of Events – Mark Wills

The next Development Authority board meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2013 – 7:30 a.m. at the DACC's office – Center for Trade & Tourism, 1000 Business Blvd., Evans, GA 30809

XI. Public Comment

Nayna Mistry from Development Services mentioned the department has received more inquiries for retail and residential than last year; this is a good sign.

Randy DuTeau, Executive Director of Columbia County CVB mentioned their board of directors approved a rebrand for the organization and has hired a marketing firm named 365° Total Marketing from Savannah. The company will work on revamping the CVB's web site create a new visitors guide and etc. The CVB is planning on bringing in events to the county and use the great venues already in the county.

Tammy Shepherd, Executive Director of the CC Chamber of Commerce mentioned the State of Community Address on September 26 at Liberty Park Gym in Grovetown. The Chamber will announce the new leadership class shortly; there is 30 participants this year.

Michael Rorick, citizen of Columbia County asked about surveying companies when they leave the area.

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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