

DACC Board Meeting Minutes						
October 23, 2024			7:30 AM		DACC Conference Room	
Meeting called by	Chairman, Rick Evans - called the meeting to order @ 7:30					
Type of meeting	Board Meeting					
Facilitator	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Note taker	Linda Peplau					
Adjourned	8:44 AM					
Board Attendance	Rick Evans	Y	Mark Herbert	Not present	Sanjeev Singhal	Y
	Mark Wills	Y	Jean Garniewicz	Y	Stan Shepherd	Y
	Jim Cox	Y	Kerry Bridges	Y	Ben Stapleton	Y
Staff/Guests	Cheney Eldridge, Chris Driver, Anita Patel, Stuart Hilsman, Linda Peplau, Dr. Steven Flynt (CCBOE) & County Commissioner, Connie Melear.					
Meeting Agenda						
1 minute(s)	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Discussion	Chairman Rick Evans calls for a motion to jointly approve the Agenda for the October 23, 2024, DACC Board Meeting (with one correction to the date of the next Executive Committee meeting -11.08.2024 @8:30), the minutes for the August 28, 2024 DACC Board Meetings & the CALLED Board Meeting on September 24, 2024.					
Conclusions	Motion: Kerry Bridges 2nd: Jim Cox Motion carries unanimously. (8-0)					
Minutes of Previous Meeting						
0 minute(s)	Chairman, Rick Evans					
Discussion	See above.					
Conclusions	Motion: Kerry Bridges 2nd: Jim Cox Motion carries unanimously. (8-0)					
Action Items			Person Responsible		Deadline	
DACC Financial Report						
8 minutes	Treasurer, Mark Wills					
Discussion	<p>Treasurer, Mark Wills, presented the September 2024 financial report, highlighting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gave a balance sheet overview on page 2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Explained the "Other Current Assets" line item that reflects the \$200,000.00, deposit for escrow from Columbia County for the purchase of Tax Map Parcel Number 018 006. ◦ The \$200,000.00 funds is reflective on the Assets & on the Liability line totals since it might have to be paid back to the county in a later time. ◦ The \$200,000.00 was deposited into the Development M/M account and then withdrawn by form of a cashier's check, payable to Hull Barrett for escrow holdings. • The 7 & 8, budget over view, on track for early year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Shares the discussion that took place in the last Executive Meeting pertaining to the budget. ◦ Shares that Cheney has restructured the line items to track expenses for better reporting. <p>Chairman, Rick Evans shares the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shares that he encouraged the new staff to put their footprint on the line items to better suit the reporting process/expense lines. • Shares some details about his last meeting with Scott Johnson & Leanne Reece regarding the budget. 					
Conclusions	This is a only a draft. Waiting to see if auditors have any changes.					

Chairman's Report & post hurricane Helene updates

27 minutes

Discussion

Chairman, Rick Evans shares the following:

- Shares his disappointment in having to cancel the board retreat. He knows they made the right choice.
 - Aiming to reschedule in the 1st qtr. of next year.
- Post hurricane Helene, regional & community cleanup efforts.
 - Hats off to GA Power, AT&T, and the county for all they have accomplished in the cleanup efforts.
 - We can now use this storm as an example, of how we successfully recovered, from the worst storm in Georgia's history.

Vice Chairman, Stan Shepherd shares the following on post hurricane Helene.

- Gives a report on the Emergency Ops. Center's (EOC) collaboration to bring the county back to normal.
- Reports on regional, community, and state of emergency results.
- Shares of power lines dangers and how the repair system functions for power, phone & internet.
- Gave a report on the tower rebuilds and cell service restoration timeline and process.

Jim Cox, shares the following on post hurricane Helene.

- Thurmond Dam tour that was schedule for 11.07.2024, has been canceled due to hurricane Helene.
 - It will be rescheduled once repairs and cleanup have been completed.
- Shares that Columbia County made the Portuguese newspaper due to the hurricane.
- The success of our region's recovery is a great way to recruit future industries.

Kerry Bridges, shares the following on post hurricane Helene.

- Reports that hurricane Helene was the largest storm in Georgia's history!!
- 95% of GA Power's customers in our region were without power after the storm.
- 8300 broken power poles (1/2 were here in our region).
- GA Power built 12 recovery cities in 3 days.
- 10,000 workers were brought into our region to help with recovery.
- Shares that, a secure electric grid, is why Georgia is a top state to do business in.
- GA Power had 8 to 10 thousand electric personnel working on restoring power before they had to go to Florida for a new recovery mission.

Ben Stapleton, shares the following on post hurricane Helene.

- Ben, shares that he and his daughters, helped neighbors in his community by transporting essentials via golf cart. (a picture was posted in the USAA news media outlets).

Commissioner, Connie Melear shares the following on post hurricane Helene.

- Reports that FEMA set up 11 sites throughout our region.
- Shares that White OAK/EDACC was a big part of the debris cleanup.
- 366,000 cubic yards of debris have been dumped so far.
- About 20,000 regular dump trucks of debris were filled and dumped.
- Shares a traffic light restoration update.
- Reports on the emergency management team's efforts to keep the community informed on different platforms for restoration and resources.

Discussion

Dr. Steven Flynt shares the following on post hurricane Helene.

- CCBOE's main efforts at 1st, were getting diesel fuel transported to all the schools for the generators.
- Reports that GA Power was essential to getting the schools up and running again with power.
- CCBOE's priority is always to get the kids back to school as fast as possible.
- CCBOE, 1st implemented an "optional school attendance" with 80% of student participation.
- Traffic strategies for school buses, was on the top of the safety list.
- Dr. Flynt, recognizes his whole staff as being paramount in making school openings as fast as it was.
- Reports that there was some schools that flooded and a lot of tree damage as a result of the hurricane.
- Informed the board of the flexibility that was given by the Strategic Waiver School Systems.

DACC Committee Reports	
6 minutes	<p>Stan Shepherd for Property Development Committee Jean Garniewicz for Existing Business Development & Workforce Development Committee</p>
Discussion	<p>Stan Shepherd, shared on the following committee meeting topics for the Property Development Committee meeting on 09.13.2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Oak landscape. • White Oak water main. • White Oak signage agreement. • Augusta Tech possibilities. <p>Jean Garniewicz, shared on the following committee meeting topics for the Existing Business Development & Workforce Dev. Committee meeting on 09.13.2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Deere's expansion and their efforts to create roads within the park to mitigate traffic from the main roads. • Wage Survey progress. • Blueprint for staying connected to our existing industries for retention purposes. • Plans to create a monthly Active Project Progress Report. • Discussion on the new sports center proposed for Patriot Park. • The closure of Champions Orthopedics.
Project Updates & hurricane Helene checkups	
10 minutes	<p>Stuart Hilsman & Anita Patel</p>
Discussion	<p>Stuart Hilsman shares the following Project updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuart shares a Project Report graph that reflects the active and inactive projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ \$7.9 Billion in possible investments. ◦ 1,785 in possible job outcome. ◦ Kerry Bridges, asks if the project report, can be updated by listing the 2 Active & 5 Inactive projects. • Operational Checkups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Stuart called on 15 existing industries for hurricane checkups, resulting in mostly tree damages. ◦ John Deere had 2 tractors that were damaged. ◦ Most industries had tree damages and some had roofs that are needing inspection. ◦ Club Car had the most damage with a fleet of cars having water damage. They are currently looking for a place to securely store the damaged cars. ◦ Stuart reports that Starlink was helpful in getting the existing industries reconnected to the web. <p>Anita Patel shares the following for retail outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that she has reached out to retailers to provide support and to provide resource contacts. • Anita shares where the "Hurricane Helene Resources" button was added on the website. • She is informing business that they are able to apply for FEMA & SBA loans for help. <p>Mark Wills & Rick Evans (SBA Committee members), both report that SBA loans will only pay what insurance will not cover.</p>

Economic Development Update

22 minutes Executive Director, Cheney Eldridge

Discussion

Executive Director, Cheney Eldridge shares the following:

- Cheney reports on her **post storm ride along with Matt Forshee** (GA Power, E. Regional ED MGR.)
 - Shares pictures of the fairgrounds to show the tents, set up by GA Power.
 - Laundry station trailer
 - Sleeping trailers/bunk houses
 - Supplies stations
 - Food hall/tent
 - 12 Resource stations were set up around the area.
- **White Oak (parcel F-3)/EDACC, helping the community restore.**
 - A picture of the F-3 parcel at White Oak was shown.
 - F-3, currently has a huge mound of debris, along with a wood chipper to mulch the debris.

Cheney shares that EDACC was part of the restoration process by helping to keep the roads clear from hazardous debris.

- **Budget restructuring/recoding breakdown.**
 - A **revised budget structure** was passed out to the board by Stuart Hilsman & shown on the overhead projector.
 - Cheney points out the Economic Development portion of the report.
 - **Strategic Partnerships**, would include sponsorship like the BE PRO BE PROUD trailer.
 - * BE PRO BE PROUD, travels the nation to expose middle & high school students to trade work through an interactive gaming stations in a portable traveling trailer.
 - Chairman, Rick Evan brings up the point that EDACC will continue to report the bond debt, although the county will continue the payments.
 - Chairman, Rick Evan, also shares with the board, details of the reimbursements from SRSCRO.

Discussion

****Chairman, Rick Evans calls for a motion to approve the revised budget structure that was proposed by Cheney Eldridge.**

Motion: Jim Cox 2nd: Jean Garniewicz Motion carries unanimously. (8-0)

- Jim Cox starts the discussion on the status of SmokeShow BBQ.
 - EDACC, has not received a construction completion time date.
 - Hurricane Helene has set regional construction back for a few months.
 - Discussion on loan structure, pay back portion & grant portion of the loan.
- Cheney shares the WierStewart marketing presentation.
 - The word "Economic" was added to our name to set us apart from other agencies.
 - Presentation slides were shown of the new look.
 - Anita Patel shares that SRSCRO will approve the reimbursement for the costs of the digital marketing.
 - Kerry Bridges supports adding the word "Economic" to our logo. He shares the value in setting us apart from similar worded agencies.

Early Exit Jean Garniewicz, exits the board meeting early at 8:40 AM

Calendar of Events		
<1 minute	Chairman, Rick Evans	
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 08, 2024 Property Development Committee 7:30 • November 08, 2024 Executive Meeting 8:30 • November 08, 2024 Existing Business & Workforce Committee 9:30 • November 20, 2024 Board Meeting 	
Adjournment		8:44 AM
Conclusions	Chairman Rick Evans calls for a motion to adjourn the October 23, 2024, Board Meeting at 8:44 AM. Motioned: Kerry Bridges 2nd: Mark Wills Motion carries unanimously (7-0)	
Next meeting: November 20,2024		DACC All