



EDACC Business Recruitment and Incentives Program Committee			
June 3, 2026		8:00 AM	EDACC Conference Room
Meeting called by	Jim Cox called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM		
Type of meeting	Business Recruitment and Incentives Program Committee		
Facilitator	Chair - Jim Cox		
Note taker	Linda Peplau		
Adjourned	8:54 AM		
Attendees	Jim Cox & Ben Stapleton		
Staff/Guests	Rick Evans, Cheney Eldridge, Anita Patel, Stuart Hilsman & Linda Peplau, & Skyler Andrews (Augusta Press)		
Meeting Agenda			
1 minute	Jim Cox		
Discussion	Ben Stapleton read out bullet points from the last meeting on 04.01.2026. Jim Cox called for a motion to jointly approve the agenda for the June 03, 2026 , Business Recruitment and Incentives Program Committee meeting & the minutes for the April 01, 2026 , Business Recruitment and Incentive Committee meeting.		
Conclusions	Motion: Ben Stapleton 2nd: Jim Cox Motion passed unanimously (2-0)		
Minutes of Previous Meeting			
1 minute	Jim Cox		
Discussion	See above.		
Conclusions	Motion: Ben Stapleton 2nd: Jim Cox Motion passed unanimously (2-0)		
Old Business			
18 minutes	Jim Cox		
Discussion	Jim Cox shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He shared his excitement about the return of hockey to our region with the revival of the Augusta Lynx.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Opened a discussion regarding the potential for a multi sports complex and current investor interest.◦ Tossed out ideas for a potential Augusta Lynx practice facility with possible JDA involvement, local developers involvement, and ongoing location searches.• Augusta GreenJackets and the Savannah Bananas were discussed as benchmarks for attracting visitors to the CSRA for new entertainment options• Discussed the impact of the Augusta Coliseum renovations, which are on schedule and on budget.• Discussed the progression of Augusta, including recent streetscaping efforts and the removal of certain trees, which has contributed to an increased sense of safety.		



New Business		
24 minutes	Cheney Eldridge & Jim Cox	
Discussion	Cheney Eldridge shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cheney provided an annexation update regarding the prohibition on annexing parcels from one county into another.• She provided an update and additional clarity regarding the recently passed tax relief House bill.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ She opened a discussion on the potential for future tax relief opportunities.◦ The committee discussed neighboring states experiencing rapid growth attributed to the absence of a state income tax.• After Rick Evans inquired about any findings related to past TAD documents and plans, Anita shared the results of her TAD research, including the stages at which the project halted and the reasons for those delays.• New restaurant announcements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Paris Baguette (next to CAVA in Mullins Colony)◦ Nordhavn-Rustik (Scandinavian architecture with European style food -near Towne Center Park)	
	Ben Stapleton shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ben shared updates on several developments currently under construction in Harlem, as well as information on newly opened projects, including those near GreenPoint.• The committee discussed certain competitive restrictions that are currently in place per the purchase agreements, as well as recent development activity in the area.	
	Jim Cox shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jim shared with the committee the career progression of Ronnie Kurtz, who has advanced to Assistant Secretary for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), noting that he is pleased to see local people doing good things, including Trey Allen (Senior Adviser to the Department of Housing and Urban Development).	
Updates		
10 minutes	Cheney Eldridge	
Discussion	Cheney Eldridge shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thunder Over Evans updates from May 16, 2026 (military personnel support)• PAC Extension – Inquiries & Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ New space will include a conference center with a capacity of approximately 200 people.◦ Provide storage support• Rick Evans shared that the Savannah Rapids renovation is currently in progress, based on his recent observations.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small Business Support:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Discuss the importance of supporting local businesses and the impact on the local economy.◦ Rick Evans initiated a discussion focused on evaluating opportunities to strengthen economic development within the county, with particular emphasis on supporting small business startups and expansion initiatives.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Brick and Mortar's revival- Discussed The Maker & the Merchant Boutique for benchmarking	
Adjournment		8:54 AM
Conclusions	Jim Cox called for a motion to adjourn. Motion: Ben Stapleton 2nd: Jim Cox Motion passed unanimously (2-0)	
Next meeting: August 05, 2026		Economic Development Authority Conference Room