

Charlottesville Economic Development Authority (CEDA) Meeting Minutes – November 10 2020

Members Present Addison Barnhardt Ed Schmitz

James Cauthen
Jay O'Donnell

Staff Present

Chris Engel Brian Wheeler Trish Carpenter Jason Ness Not Present Adrian Felts

A meeting of the Charlottesville Economic Development Authority occurred on Tuesday, November 10th, 2020 via virtual electronic Zoom meeting. Vice-Chair, Mr. Schmitz, called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Vice-Chairman Schmitz welcomed the Board and asked if there was any public comment; no public comments noted, he proceeded to the next agenda item.

Mr. Schmitz asked the board if there were any comments or questions regarding the June 9, 2020 meeting minutes and the Treasurer Reports for April, May, June, July, August and September 2020. It was noted that a clerical error was corrected in the May 2020 Treasurer Report. Having no other comments or questions, Mr. Schmitz called for a motion to approve the June 9, 2020 meeting minutes and the Treasurer Reports; motion moved by Mr. O'Donnell, second by Mr. Cauthen, and all present voted in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Engel welcomed and introduced the two new board members – Mr. Addison Barnhardt and Mr. James Cauthen. Both members shared a little background about themselves. Mr. Engel informed the board that Mr. Dunstan resigned and Ms. Fernandez had a job transfer out of the area which leaves two vacant seats on the board.

Mr. Engel gave an overview of the COVID-19 response beginning with the EDA's emergency resolution to allocate \$350,000 to immediate relief efforts in March 2020. The OED has been busy supporting businesses by administering series of programs. The BRACE Grant had 150 applicants and 69 businesses awarded relief for total disbursement of \$83,450 with the average amount being \$1,200. Business Equity Fund (BEF) Resiliency Loan was offered as low interest loans to socially disadvantaged businesses. Business Recovery Fund, a microloan fund that was administered by CIC with investments from the city, county and private sector. GO Hire, which is an existing program, was focused on retaining and rehiring employees awarded \$96,597 of funds to 30 businesses. Project Rebound was a collaborative effort led by the Chamber with support from the city, county and UVA to assist in reopening and recovering the economy. In addition, there have been two rounds of the Small Business Relief Grant with funds from the federal CARES act money with 360 applications received and 249 grants processed. The CARES act funds have also been allocated to support the Commercial Corridors with signage, hand washing stations, curbside and off street parking and advertising.

Next item was an update on the Friendship Court Performance Agreement which was approved by the CEDA board last year and recently approved by the City Council. The Piedmont Housing Alliance is leading the project to redevelop the existing site and add additional affordable housing. The agreement shares the tax increment created by the project with the developer in exchange for meeting stated performance criteria. The EDA will serve as a conduit for granting the funds upon completion of the project.

The Brown Edwards FY20 audit is wrapping up and will be presented to the Board at the December meeting.

Mr. Engel reminded the Board that the required FOIA training is due by 12/31/2020. This is a requirement for EDA's throughout the State of Virginia. Once the training is completed the certificates will be filed with the Clerk of Council's office.

There being no further business, Mr. Schmitz asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. O'Donnell made the motion, Mr. Barnhardt second the motion, all present voted in favor, meeting adjourned at 4:31 PM.

Chris Engel, Secretary

Date Approved by CEDA