

Charlottesville Economic Development Authority (CEDA) Meeting Minutes – October 11, 2022

## **Members** Present

J'riah Guerrero Addison Barnhardt James Cauthen Jay O'Donnell Jonathan Chasen Denise Herndon Reid Thompson

## <u>Staff Present</u> Chris Engel Aioni Wynn-Flow

Ajoni Wynn-Floyd George Sandridge Trish Carpenter

A meeting of the Charlottesville Economic Development Authority occurred on Tuesday, October 11th, 2022 via virtual electronic Zoom meeting. Chair, Mr. Guerrero, called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Mr. Guerrero asked if there was any public comment; no public comments noted, he proceeded to the next agenda item.

Mr. Guerrero asked the board if there were any comments or questions regarding the September 11, 2022 meeting minutes. No comments or questions noted, Chair asked for a motion to approve the September 13, 2022 meeting minutes, motion moved by Mr. Chasen, second by Mr. Cauthen, all present in favor. Motion passed. Next, question was asked about an item on the Treasury Report. Mr. Engel addressed it and no further comments or questions noted for the Treasury Report from August 2022. Chair asked for a motion to approve the August 2022 Treasury Reports; motion moved by Mr. O'Donnell second the motion; all present in favor. Motion passed.

First item of new business is the lease at 112. W. Main St., York Place. Mr. Engel provided some background on the lack of available public restrooms on the Downtown Mall since its inception in the 1970s. More recently, before COVID, restrooms were available in the Downtown Transit Station located on the east end of the mall. However, these have been closed during the pandemic and currently remain closed. In seeking a cost efficient solution, Mr. Engel began discussions with the property owner at York Place who indicated a willingness to lease an existing, but previously closed to the public, restroom facilities in York Place for a one-year lease period. The monthly fee will allow the property owner to clean, stock and properly maintain the facilities. In an effort to expedite the process, the City Manager identified a funding source and requested that the EDA execute the lease on behalf of the City. Some questions were asked by the Board members regarding the language in the lease agreement and answered by Mr. Engel. With no more questions from the Board, the Chair asked for a vote on the resolution to execute the lease; motion moved by Mr. Chasen, second by Mr. Guerrero, all present in favor. Motion passed.

Next item of new business is a resolution in support of the Envision Grant, which is a collaboration between the City, County and the local United Way. A presentation and discussion of this proposal was made previously to board. The resolution for consideration is a request for a one-time contribution of \$50,000 from the Authorities Opportunity Fund to help fund the Envision Grant. The United Way will manage the grant application and award process. With this funding from the three entities, up to 15 businesses would be eligible to be recipients of the grant. The intent is to assist minority businesses that have been established for at least two years scale up and expand. Some questions were directed to Mr. Engel by Board members, Mr. Engel answered, and there being no more questions, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the resolution; Mr. Chasen so moved, second by Mr. Cauthen, all present in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Engel shared with the Board that New Hill Development Corporation was awarded a grant through GO Virginia to help with their efforts. The EDA had previously agreed to provide the local match for this grant upon award. The grant will be used for the BEACON project which seeks to create a shared-use commercial kitchen in the City. Another opportunity for additional funding for NHDC is through the AFID Infrastructure Grant Program run through the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Staff are currently working with NHDC representatives to submit an application on their behalf by November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. This item will also require local matching funds from the EDA if successful.

Finally, Mr. Engel reviewed the Cville Match results document with the Board. The document summarizes the 11 businesses in the program since its inception in 2019, and the first six that completed the two-year cycle collectively added 38 jobs and increased their hourly wage by \$8.00. As the current businesses progress through the two-year cycle, additional updates will be provided on their progress.

There being no further business, Mr. Guerrero asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Barnhardt made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Chasen second the motion, all present voted in favor, meeting adjourned at 4:47 PM.

Chris Engel, Secretary

Date Approved by CEDA