



**Charlottesville Economic Development Authority (CEDA)
Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2026**

Members Present

Steve Johnson
Addison Barnhardt
James Cauthen
Gareth Gaston
Carpenter

Staff Present

Chris Engel
Matt Johnson
Keith Groomes

Not Present

Denise Herndon
Quinton Harrell
Jay O'Donnell

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A meeting of the Charlottesville Economic Development Authority occurred on Tuesday, April 14th, 2026, at CitySpace. The Chair, Mr. Barnhardt, called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Mr. Barnhardt, the Chair, asked if there was any public comment. Mr. Peter Krebs of the Piedmont Environmental Council spoke to the Board asking for local leadership and regional collaboration between the City and the county EDAs to invest in our outdoor resources for all the communities to enjoy. The Board thanked Mr. Krebs for coming in and speaking.

Mr. Barnhardt asked the Board members if there were any comments or questions regarding the March 10, 2026, meeting minutes or the financial reports for January and February 2026. There being no comments or questions, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, motion moved by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Cauthen, all in favor. Motion passed.

First order of business was a presentation to the Board on the Pathways for Opportunity, Goal #3 from the Strategic Plan. Jenny Biche, Workforce Development Program Manager, provided highlights on recent activities with our current programs in place, which included an in-person testimonial from a local business on how the GO Hire program has helped the restaurant she manages, as well as two video testimonials from recent graduates of the Skills Builder course that were offered jobs after completion.

There was a detailed presentation to the Board from Mr. Matt Johnson, Assistant Director, as he walked the Board through the key updates to high level metrics staff are tracking annually as part of the EDSP. Annual data for calendar year 2024 was recently released and presented.

Mr. Engel informed the Board about the upcoming Tom Tom Festival and some of the activities planned.

Mr. Addison Barnhardt will be one of the judges for the upcoming Piedmont Pitch night on June 3.

The Downtown Mall Anniversary events are scheduled for July 3 with a ceremony at 4:00. A whole series of activities are scheduled for that day and night, including Fridays After Five and a lantern parade.

Mr. Steve Johnson shared that May is Bike month and it's more than just a recreation, it's also about commuting for work and other activities.

There being no further business, Mr. Barnhardt asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, so moved by Mr. Johnson, second by Mr. Gaston, all present in favor. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:25 PM.



Chris Engel, Secretary

Date Approved by CEDA