



**Charlottesville Economic Development Authority (CEDA)
Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2026**

Members Present

Addison Barnhardt
Quinton Harrell
James Cauthen
Steven Johnson

Staff Present

Chris Engel
Matt Johnson
Jenny Biche
Keith Groomes

Not Present

Jay O'Donnell
Andrew Cox

County Members

Don Long
Steve Hood
Bea Lapisto-Kirtley

Friedman
Gareth Gaston
Denise Herndon

Roberta Pomponio
Trish Carpenter

Bill Mechnick
David Storm
Emily Kilroy

Frank

A special meeting of the Charlottesville Economic Development Authority and the Albemarle County Economic Development Authority occurred on Tuesday, September 15th, 2026, at CitySpace, 100 5th St. NE. The Chair, Mr. Barnhardt, called the CEDA meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Mr. Barnhardt welcomed all the EDA Board members and guests to the meeting.

The floor was opened for public comments – two speakers addressed the Board to encourage each body to consider ways to support and invest resources into outdoor recreation; one public comment suggesting alignment between both jurisdictions for joint inspections and plan reviews.

Pace Lochte, Assistant VP for Economic Development at UVA, on behalf of the Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development (CVPED) presented a summary of a detailed analysis performed by TEconomy report highlighting economic growth opportunities for the area in both the Biosciences and Defense/National Security fields. Following the presentation, members engaged with several questions.

Nikki Hastings, Executive Director of the CvilleBioHub provided an update on the Commonwealth BioAccelerator project after year one and previewed the expansion project and funding gap for phase 2. She detailed the job creation and investment generated by the participating firms and hoped the EDA would continue to support the efforts going forward. Following the presentation, members engaged with several questions.

Allie Hill from the Piedmont Environmental Council presented a video on supporting outdoor trails and recreation and the benefit not only for the residents but also attracting visitors to the area as well as attracting larger companies to move to Charlottesville for the

outdoor attractions. Following the presentation, members engaged with several questions.

Mr. Engel thanked both EDA's for their participation in today's joint meeting. CEDA will resume its normal schedule with its October meeting.

Chairs Barnhardt and Long both expressed appreciation for the ability to meet jointly once a year to learn and discuss issues of mutual significance.

There being no further business, Mr. Barnhardt and Mr. Long each adjourned their respective meetings at 5:29 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Engel", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Chris Engel, Secretary

Date Approved by CEDA