Meeting Minutes

Present: Feaster, Alsko, Dallas, Mantua, Murray, Patrick, Rodriguez, Sulka, Shelton, Sommerville
Absent: Gough, Panu
Staff: O'Toole, Stone, Neary
Guests: John Fleming, Eric Somerville, Mike Levine, Scott Marshall, Kevin Phillips, Eleanore Lightsey, York Glover

Chair Feaster called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to enter executive session to review the confidential projects; Murray moved; Dallas seconded; approved unanimously; the Board entered executive session at 2:03 pm.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to exit executive session; Sommerville moved; Rodriguez seconded; The Board exited executive session at 2:27 pm. No motions or votes were taken in executive session. Public session followed.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to accept the Town of Port Royals nomination of Greg Shelton to the Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation's board; Murray moved, Sommerville seconded.

John O'Toole introduced Greg Shelton, BCEDC's new board member. Greg Shelton has been a part time resident of Port Royal for the past 21 years and a full time resident the past 4 years. He has held numerous leadership roles and was previously with Citi Bank.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve January 21st minutes; Murray; Mantua seconded; approved unanimously.

John Fleming provided update on SCA activity. SCA is finishing up grants in Hampton and Denmark on utility work. On marketing, Kay Maxwell is finishing up the Camoin 310 meetings and entering into new contract for thirty-six in person meeting. SCA has multiple trade missions and conferences coming up with SCDOC.

O'Toole provided an update on 2020-2021 BCEDC budget.

O'Toole provided an update on BCEDC site fund budget. Each year County Council allocates approximately $500,000 for site funds to the BCEDC. The receival of funds from the sale of Myrtle Park has shifted to June. The BCEDC also has added expenses related to the SCDOC palmetto sites program – a portion of this will be reimbursed by SCDOC. The BCEDC has two other projects – road repaving and building pad construction that feature Commerce reimbursements.

Activity Report

Building Pad Project – BCEDC Staff to bring back recommendation on proposals.

O'Toole provided review of BCEDC scorecard. BCEDC currently at $10.247 million in capital investment, 87 newly created jobs, 29 business retention meetings, and 37 new leads. BCEDC is working on several promising projects: Project Birch - $20m, 18 jobs / Project Mercury - $8.25m, 237 jobs / Project Oshkosh - $8m / Project Cloud - $8m, 34 jobs / Project Cali - $3.5m, 87 jobs. BCEDC expects to hit on job creation goal. BCEDC is optimistic they should come fairly close to capital investment and lead generation goal.

The Town of Hilton Head Island has gone out to bid on the 6.6 acre Palmetto Bay Business Park. A local doctor submitted a successful proposal to the RFP and will be moving forward with a medical office.

Heather Wrath of the South Carolina Distillers Guild spoke on challenges related to distilleries being prohibited from staying open past 7:00 pm and not being allowed to serve food. The Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation discussed the overall economic impact of the Burnt Church Distillery project. Heather Wrath to send studies from SCDOA.

Brendan Neary, intern out of Wentworth Institute of Technology has been working on the BCEDC's cybersecurity initiative in partnership with South Coast Cyber Center. Brendan has been focusing on assisting the SCCC with their social media and website posts. Brendan has also been coordinating a cybersecurity webinar series with the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce. USCB and TCL have also utilized research done by Brendan on curriculum related to cybersecurity.

BCEDC halted private sector fundraising through Convergent due to Covid but plans to begin this project in August of 2021.

The BCEDC walked the board through 'GIS Webtech' a new data system that allows the BCEDC to generate customized reports for prospect companies. The BCEDC also provided an update on the 'SCA Landing Pad.' The City of Beaufort has awarded the bid for the upfit on the second floor 'landing pad' space at the Beaufort Digital Corridor.

BCEDC staff also reviewed the FILOT, SSRC, and MCIP process that BCEDC staff will follow. Staff will work closely with the County and the municipalities to brief council members, municipal management, and board members on the use of FILOTs, SSRCs, and MCIPs when the project falls within said individual's district/area.

Under 'New Business,' BCEDC to send out survey on strategic planning session.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 pm.