
Meeting Minutes

Present: Feaster, Alsko, Dallas, Gough, Mantua, Murray, Sulka
Absent: Fobes, Rodriguez, Panu, Sommerville, Shelton
Staff: O'Toole, Stone
Guests: Cory Cooper, John Fleming, Joe Fragale, Zachary Green, Eleanore Lightsey, Charlie O'Brien, Cindi Rourk

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; Sulka moved; Dallas seconded; approved unanimously; the Board entered executive session at 2:04 pm.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to exit executive session; Fobes moved; Sulka seconded; The Board exited executive session at 2:29 pm. No motions or votes were taken in executive session. Public session followed.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve August 19th 2021 minutes; Murray moved; Sulka seconded; approved unanimously.

O'Toole provided an update on 2021-2022 budget.

Cory Cooper provided an update on the South Coast Cyber Center and the Beaufort Digital Corridor's efforts to create a world class center for cyber research and education. The Beaufort Digital Corridor is offering bootcamps for kids and also more intricate programs for 11th graders as they transition into higher level programs at TCL and USCB's.

Zachary Green provided an update on the Hero's program at the Don Ryan Center for Innovation. Zachary has a background as a marine and a volunteer firefighter. His experiences allowed him to start a company that makes product to assist firemen in their line of duty. Taking these experiences, Zachary has used them to assist others in their entrepreneurial ventures. The Don Ryan Center's mentorship program allows successful retirees to connect with veterans and first responder entrepreneurs.

Cindi Rourk and Charlie O'Brien provided an update on the Climb Fund. The mission of the Climb Fund is to provide improved economic opportunity by creating capital to small businesses and affordable housing developments. This is done through lending opportunities when banks cannot.

The BCEDC reviewed current scorecard and results. The BCEDC is currently at \$9.34 million in capital investment, 13 new jobs, and 9 business retention meetings for FY 2021-2022. The BCEDC currently has 43 'A' ranked leads.

The BCEDC provided an update on activity. Mira International Foods (Project Mira) has been formally announced by SC Department of Commerce. This project is a dry foods distributor out of California purchasing the 20 Eleanore Fine Rd facility. Magnus Development Partners continues to move forward with construction of their 64,000 sq ft speculative building. The BCEDC has also initiated construction on the Lot 13 building pad project and expects to be finished with construction prior to the end of the year. The BCEDC is planning a economic summit, 'CONVERGE 2022', for January. The BCEDC also recently hosted an industry roundtable which was attended by existing industry, SC Department of Commerce, and support organizations.

John Fleming provided an update on SCA activity. SCA is scheduled to go to live exchange in Arizona for face to face meetings with prospect companies. SCA is seeing an uptick in project flow but aren't seeing a lot of site visits. SCA is continuing to work on site enhancement projects and funding for spec buildings.

O'Toole reviewed the BCEDC product report. O'Toole will send out a doodle poll to coordinate a subcommittee meeting on product.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.