
Meeting Minutes

Present: Feaster, Alsko, Dallas, Murray, Gough, Shelton, Sulka
Absent: Fobes, Panu, Rodriguez, Sommerville
Staff: O’Toole, Stone
Guests: John Fleming

The BCEDC did not have a quorum for executive session. No executive session took place.

The BCEDC arrived at a quorum. Chair Feaster called the general session meeting to order at 2:46 pm.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve May 19th minutes; Murray moved; Dallas seconded; approved unanimously.

O’Toole reviewed 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 budget. The BCEDC is expecting to receive the proceeds from the Myrtle Park sale – approximately \$600,000. As well as the interest accrued on the UTC funds – approximately \$150,000. The BCEDC is planning on implementing a separate checking account for the site fund budget and the operating budget.

Gwen Chambers presented on Blacquity. Blacquity’s mission is to enhance the economic and educational progress of the black community by eliminating inequities, providing mentorship, and strengthening the economy through business ownership. Gullah T’s N Tings and Four Seasons Apothecary are two of the businesses that have complete the Blacquity program. Currently Blacquity is in process with a nine person cohort. Blacquity is assisting businesses in the program learn about business license requirements, funding opportunities, and how to scale their business. Blacquity is also working to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs and work with 3rd graders to 12th graders through an entrepreneurship camp. Currently the cohort is \$125 for the participant. Blacquity is working to expand instructors and is working to expand reach in Beaufort County and Jasper County region. Primary funding currently has been through the Blacquity board. The \$75,000 grant from the BCEDC would be used to expand the curriculum of the program and to fund a program associate position. The BCEDC board would like additional detail on the Blacquity’s metrics/deliverables, the Blacquity business plan, and the responsibility of the additional position.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve a \$5,500 grant for Project RLB; Dallas moved; Sulka seconded; approved unanimously. The projects will be looked at for their total investment and job creation. The company will be required to execute performance agreements tied to the job creation numbers and investment numbers. The total investment of the project is \$500K and 6 jobs at an average wage of \$44K/year.

BCEDC reviewed the activity report.

John Fleming provided an update on SCA activity. SCA has hired two new project managers. SCA just completed a California trade mission with 7 company visits and participated in the SCDOC Chicago Site Selectors Meeting. SCA had two cold calls from Hyundai suppliers. Upcoming is the Australia mission and an additional California marketing mission.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 pm.