

## Meeting Minutes

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Present: Feaster, Alsko, Dallas, Forster (Designee for Sulka), Gough, Mantua, Murray, Rodriguez, Shelton  
Absent: Fobes, Panu, Sulka, Sommerville  
Staff: O'Toole, Stone  
Guests: Maxwell, Reitz, Somerville, Williams

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Chair Feaster called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to enter executive session to review the confidential projects; Shelton moved; Alsko seconded; approved unanimously; the Board entered executive session at 2:11 pm.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to exit executive session; Alsko moved; Gough seconded; The Board exited executive session at 2:32 pm. No motions or votes were taken in executive session. Public session followed.

William Fugate of SkyDrive presented. SkyDrive is a Japanese developer of zero emission flying vehicles and heavy lift cargo drones. SkyDrive has a testing and R&D facility in Toyota, Japan and a headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. SkyDrive currently has 150 employees in Japan. The BCEDC initially met SkyDrive at the 2019 Paris Airshow and then again through lead generator Frenger in 2022. SkyDrive visited Beaufort in July of 2022 and has again come to Beaufort with the intent of staying from September to November as they complete their analysis of the South Carolina and U.S market. SkyDrive has had meetings with SC Department of Commerce, the SC Aeronautics Commission, local/regional airports, as well as representatives from the City of Beaufort. Currently, SkyDrive is focused on building a use case for their product and is working with airports as they plan strategically for EVTOL technology. They are also working to partner with Part 135 certified operators.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve August 18<sup>th</sup> minutes, Murray moved; Dallas seconded; approved unanimously.

O'Toole recommended tabling the agenda item related to Blacquity until October.

Chair Feaster entertained a motion to approve \$15,000 grant for 'Project N', Norman USA; Murray moved, Dallas seconded, approved unanimously. The Norman USA grant will be tied to the execution of a 32,000 sq ft lease and the creation of 15 new jobs in Beaufort. The purpose of the Norman USA grant is to assist with training 2-3 'key' Beaufort managerial positions at Norman's Texas facility. Ready SC was unable to assist with the training due to the positions being managerial. Norman is also working with a hiring agency – another limitation of Ready SC.

O'Toole reviewed 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 budget.

O'Toole reviewed the BCEDC's site & job budget. The BCEDC has projects that are currently pending clarification regarding the proceeds and interest for the sale of the Myrtle Business Park. The BCEDC will be appearing in front of Beaufort County Council's finance committee on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. If the BCEDC does not receive the funds then it will require the BCEDC to alter deals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Magnus Spec Building as well as constrain available funds for economic development projects.

Kay Maxwell provided an update on SCA activity. SCA is receiving inquiries from automotive suppliers as a result of the Hyundai announcement. Maxwell highlighted Dallas site selectors event that was attended by

SCA and SCDOC. Secretary Lightsey spoke about Tico and SkyDrive's projects in SCA territory at the Dallas event. SCA has upcoming marketing missions to California, Paris, Toronto, and the Northeast. SCA also has their annual event and the Congaree coming up. SCA also is working on a story with South magazine that features Burnt Church Distillery and Bamberg Oak to Barrell.

Under new business, the BCEDC's Economic 'Converge' Summit has been scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The BCEDC's next meeting is October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 pm.