



DACC BOARD MEETING MINUTES – November 20, 2013

Center for Trade & Tourism
1000 Business Boulevard
Evans, GA 30809

Board Attendees (those absent indicated with an asterisk (*)) :

Mark Wills, Chairman	Stan Shepherd	Hugh Hollar
Doug Duncan, Vice-Chairman	Jean Garniewicz*	Mike Holliman
Rick Evans, Secretary-Treasurer	Phil Gaffney*	

Staff (those absent indicated with an asterisk (*)) :

Robbie Bennett, Executive Director
Karen Eyink, Executive Assistant
Douglas D. Batchelor, Legal Counsel

Guests Present:

Thom Tuckey, <i>CSRA Alliance Ft. Gordon</i>	Steve Crawford, <i>CC News-Times</i>
George Duehring, <i>Zaxby's</i>	Michael Rorick, <i>Citizen</i>
Nayna Mistry, <i>CC Planning & Engineering</i>	

I. Call to Order & Welcome

Chairman Mark Wills called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and declared a quorum present.

II. Reading and Approval of Agenda

Chairman Wills asked the Board to review and approve the agenda for the November 20, 2013 DACC board meeting. Motion made by Doug Duncan to approve the agenda. Stan Shepherd seconded the motion. Motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Wills asked the Board to review and approve the minutes for the October 23, 2013 DACC board meeting. Motion made by Doug Duncan to approve the minutes. Stan Shepherd seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IV. Financials – Rick Evans

From the Statement of Net Assets – October 31, 2013, Total Assets are \$680,145.56 includes Investment in the Horizon South Industrial Bldg. (Spec Bldg.) of \$275,416.71. Total cash in Checking/Savings is \$401,220.85, Account Receivables \$3,508.00 and Total Liabilities of \$1,083.17.

In the Statement of Activities by Class – One Month Ended – October 31, 2013, total income of \$21,304.32, total expense \$19,313.95 and interest revenue \$145.18 for a net income of \$2,135.55.

Doug Duncan made a motion to approve the October 31, 2013 financials. Hugh Hollar seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. Chairman's Report – Mark Wills

Chairman Wills welcomed Mike Holliman as a new board member to the Development Authority; he added that Mike brings a wealth of knowledge from industry and appreciates his service. In addition, Chairman Wills presented former board member George Duehring with a gift acknowledging his valuable service for many years with the DACC.

VI. Committee Reports – Mark Wills

Doug Duncan, Chair of the Property Development Committee reported the committee met on November 13. Chair Duncan asked Robbie to share information on implementing a property form. Per Robbie, the property form will help manage the properties that the DACC is working with and by doing so, this will help lock in the price of the properties with the particular property owner or developer, allowing the DACC to market the property. As well as, the property form will help with communication and will show correct property information. In addition, Robbie spoke on the SRS CRO grant, once the DACC has received implementation guidelines from the SRS CRO, the DACC will utilize those funds in identifying key properties in the industrial end business park segments of recruiting, to do a certified site through grants from the State of Georgia.

A new sign at the entrance of the Augusta Technical College – Grovetown Campus has been approved and will be erected for better visibility for the campus. In the time being, the county will take care of cleaning up the median and common area at the Horizon South Industrial Park in Grovetown. The DACC is looking into who is responsible for the maintenance of the park.

Stan Shepherd, Chair of the Business Recruitment and Incentive Program Committee mentioned the committee met on November 13 and discussed the RFP for the website. The committee reviewed and approved the RFP. Robbie sent the RPS's to twelve companies, half are regional or local and the rest are national firms that are dedicated to economic development. Due date for the RFP's is December 5. In addition, Chair Shepherd mentioned the committee is looking at potential properties around for further expansion.

VII. Economic Development – Robbie Bennett

During the month, Robbie attended a few existing industry meetings, one with Janus Research Group. As well as speaking to various groups i.e. Leadership Columbia County, Leadership Augusta Economic Development Day, and was asked by Tammy Shepherd, Executive Director of Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, to fill in as speaker for the National Active Retired Federal Employees Association luncheon.

Robbie met recently with Drew Dawson new director at the NPR station at GRU (Georgia Regents University). Mr. Dawson is going out into the community and meeting with community leaders and those who are referrals.

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In addition, Congressman John Barrow stopped by the DACC office to discuss growth opportunities and offered his assistance towards potential economic development grants that the Development Authority might be interested in.

Robbie attended the GA BIO breakfast on November 19. Dr. Steven Hsu founder and CEO of Camellix spoke at the breakfast. Camellix is an all natural green tea company that was in the incubator for GRU. GRU has since graduated the incubator and have decided to set up a location in Evans.

Columbia County will be featured in the January 2014 issue of GA Trend magazine; interviews and photos have taken place.

VIII. Old Business – Mark Wills

Chairman Wills mentioned per the Development Authority's by-laws, Stan Shepherd Chair of the Nominating Committee formed a committee to discuss new officers for next year. The nominating committee will present a recommendation for officers at the January 2014 meeting and will be voted on.

IX. New Business – Mark Wills

Chairman Wills now serves on the SRS CRO Board of Directors representing the DACC filling an unexpired term for an executive director of the organization. The Development Authority will send a letter requesting that Robbie Bennett, Executive Director of the Development Authority of Columbia County, replace Mark Wills seat on the SRS CRO Board of Directors. Rick Evans made a motion to approve a letter requesting Robbie to serve in place of Chairman Wills on the SRS CRO Board of Directors. Doug Duncan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

X. Calendar of Events – Mark Wills

The Development Authority will have a called board meeting as needed in December.

XI. Public Comment

Thom Tuckey, CSRA Alliance for Fort Gordon mentioned Fort Gordon contacted organization of environmental assessments to inquire on growth planning grants up to \$2 million. Those grants are used to assist communities who are facing growth in military installation of at least 2,000 people.

Nayna Mistry from Columbia County Development Services, Planning Department mentioned her office is increasing in terms of more applications for different rezoning subdivisions. Every ten years the county prepares a growth management plan, the next plan is due in 2016; it takes about two years to complete a plan.

George Duehring franchise owner of Zaxby's and former DACC board member said that he has affection for Columbia County and that the citizens have a gem with the efficiency in which the county works, friendship and mutual care for one another. He looks forward in whatever part he can help the DACC.

Mike Rorick citizen of Columbia County mentioned an article he received about military base closings; none was listed in the area.

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XII. Closed Session – Mark Wills

Chairman Wills mentioned there is a need for a closed session based on a personnel issue. Stan Shepherd made a motion to go into closed session. Hugh Hollar seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Doug Batchelor, Legal Counsel stated that a personnel matter was discussed but no action taken. Doug Duncan made a motion to recommend to the county a 3% merit increase to Robbie Bennett based on his 2013 performance review. Hugh Hollar seconded the motion. Motion carried.

XIII. Adjournment

Chairman Wills adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by:

Robbie Bennett, Executive Director
Development Authority of Columbia County