

DACC Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee

12-Jan-18 8:32 a.m.

Meeting called by	Mike Holliman
Type of meeting	Existing Business and Workforce Development Committee
Facilitator	Robbie Bennett
Note taker	Anita Patel
Adjourned	9:24 a.m.
Attendees	Mike Holliman, Jean Garniewicz, Phil Gaffney, Hugh Hollar, Rick Evans
Staff/Guests	Robbie Bennett, Taylor Edwards, Anita Patel

Meeting Agenda

>1 Minute(s)	Mike Holliman
Discussion	Agenda of January 12, 2018 meeting approved. Motion: Hugh Hollar ; Second: Jean Garniewicz. Motion carries unanimously. (5-0)
Conclusions	None
Action Items	Person Responsible
None	N/A

Minutes of Previous Meeting

>1 Minute(s)	Mike Holliman
Discussion	Minutes of November 3, 2017 meeting were approved with no amendments. Motion: Hugh Hollar ; Second: Jean Garniewicz. Motion carries unanimously. (5-0)
Conclusions	None
Action Items	Person Responsible
None	N/A

Old Business

0 Minute(s)	Robbie Bennett
Discussion	N/A
Conclusions	none
Action Items	Person Responsible
None	N/A

New Business	
0 minute(s)	Robbie Bennett
Discussion	N/A
Conclusions	None
Action Items	Person Responsible
None	N/A
Updates	
52 minute(s)	Taylor Edwards and Robbie Bennett
Discussion	<p>Taylor Edwards updated the committee on existing industry and implementation of the BREP (Business Retention & Expansion Program) Survey process. Taylor will have survey drafts for the next committee meeting and is considering 2-year intervals as most effective for this survey. Taylor is updating contacts as well for existing industry. CRM (Customer Relations Management) training for staff is planned. Taylor and Jean Garniewicz have been working on the HR program but have been in a holding pattern with the Augusta Economic Development Authority due to the recent staff changes in their organization. Taylor will be attending the GA Tech Manufacturing program "Creating a Front-Line culture" on Feb. 1, 2018. DACC has been acknowledged in their minutes since Taylor attended the previous conference and introduced the DACC. Taylor has maintained conversations with existing industry i.e. FLSmidth, Palmetto Industries, Augusta Iron & Steel Works to ensure their needs and concerns are being addressed. Urban Outfitters visit this week addressed workforce issues. GA Vitrified - how to support, zoning and permitting issues addressed. In October 2017, a Columbia County business was nominated by DACC as "Small Business of the Year" and won the "2017 State of Georgia Small Business of the Year" Award. This business has since grown from 2 employees to 20 and will soon double in size.</p> <p>Robbie Bennett stated that Georgia Vitrified has lost a key contract but they are now a supplier to their competitor. He also stated that this may be a potential rail-served property and to gauge the interest of CSX. Mike Holliman addressed the issue of infrastructure and if the county is meeting the needs of the community. Rick Evans addressed the recent marketing piece by Randy Griffin and Robbie Bennett stated that a marketing push/showcase for DACC and Columbia County businesses will be addressed. Phil Gaffney suggested a hybrid approach in contacting industry as strategic plans change. All agreed that being able to sit down directly with business in conducting the BREP surveys would be ideal as many times mailings are not addressed.</p> <p>Taylor Edwards addressed that the Opportunity Zone Phase 1 mailing was complete and that Phase 2 is underway constituting a formal letter from DACC, an informational piece on the Opportunity Zone and a form for business to complete and return. The Department of Community Affairs changed ranking for less developed census tracts. Taylor stated that on 1/11/18 she, along with Jodi Lott, attended to the Public Service Commission meeting and the committee approved, recommended and the chairman will issue a letter of support to Atlanta Gas & Light \$162,092 grant. Taylor met with District 2 Commissioner Echols who is interested in touring Columbia County. Hugh Hollar stated that the Gas line was a very important and that Taylor Edwards and Robbie Bennett had done a great job in pushing this issue and he thanked them for their hard work.</p>
Conclusions	None
Action Items	Person Responsible
None	N/A
Adjournment	
Next meeting: March 9, 2018	DACC Conference Room B

9:24