

COLUMBIA COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Minutes of the IDA Board of Directors meeting held at Lake Shore Hospital Authority. The meeting was held on February 4, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. and Chair Donna Brown was presiding. A quorum was present.

Directors present: Donna Brown, Suzanne Norris, Carlton Jones, Gus Rentz, and Marc Vann

Directors absent: Mike Millikin, Jeff Simmons

Staff present: Jim Poole, Gina Reynolds

Visitors present: Stew Lilker
Craig Womer
Glenn Owens

Public comment: Notice was read into the record by Chair, Donna Brown. "The Columbia County IDA will hear any citizen who wishes to address the Board, on a one time basis, pertaining to a relevant topic. If the Board wishes to hear more about the topic, that topic will be scheduled for a future Board meeting. Each speaker is limited to three minutes and the time dedicated to this topic will not exceed twenty minutes."

Mr. Craig Womer addressed the IDA Board. Mr. Womer reminded the Board of a discussion the IDA Board had when the organizational structure of the IDA was in question. One of the changes the IDA Board instituted was pre-approving travel. Mr. Womer asked, "Who paid for the Cooperstown Dream Park trip?" He said he was told by County Manager, Dale Williams that the information on payment of the trip is forthcoming. Mr. Womer said he was told by Mr. Williams that payment for the trip is coming out of the IDA budget. Mr. Womer asked if there was an illegal meeting to approve the expenditures. Mr. Womer presented the IDA Board with a packet and requested to be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Mr. Womer mentioned confusion about the date of the Feb. 4th board meeting. The January 6th agenda listed the next IDA Board meeting as Feb. 3rd. He saw on the County website that the meeting was moved to Feb. 4th.

Mr. Womer questioned the development of the IDA website. He reminded the Board about their previous discussion to have a page that says under construction.

Mr. Stew Lilker addressed the IDA Board. Mr. Lilker complimented Jim Poole's reports and said they are always informative. Mr. Lilker said Mr. Poole is the only one who provided him with complete information he requested relating to the Cooperstown Dream Park trip.

Mr. Lilker reminded the Board he is still waiting for information he requested at the last meeting. He suggested the minutes should reflect questions asked during the public comment.

Mr. Lilker asked about the status of the financial report and asked the Board what they feel are their fiscal responsibilities.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Suzanne Norris **Second** by Carlton Jones to accept the minutes of the IDA Board meeting held on January 6, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Acceptance of financial report: The January financial statement was not available. Chair Brown conveyed to the IDA Board moving forward financials will be presented one month behind. After looking over expenditures for the month, an error in the travel budget was noted and needs to be corrected. There was an unapproved expenditure to the travel line item. The (Cooperstown Dream Park) trip was not approved by the IDA Board. It is understood that the TDC Board approved the trip. The IDA is in a support role for this project, rather than in the lead.

Executive Director's Report: Jim Poole

- The Rural Issues Working Group (RIWG) requested support from Enterprise Florida on a bill to authorize unused money in the Revolving Loan Fund to be used for other rural economic development programs. Jim Poole is Chair of Enterprise Florida's Rural Issues Working Group.

- Representative Debbie Boyd and Representative Leonard Bemby are sponsoring a bill for Enterprise Zones for the Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC) catalyst sites.
- The Department of Community Affairs rejected the comprehensive plan amendment submitted by Plum Creek for the catalyst site and surrounding property. DCA claimed Columbia County has already met it's twice per year limit. Plum Creek is resubmitting the plan.
- An article on the inland ports will be in an upcoming issue of Florida Trend magazine. Columbia County will be included in that article.
 - The IDA Board discussed Free Trade Zones.
 - The IDA Board discussed the impact of tax credits.

Deputy Director's Report: Gina Reynolds

- A freight analysis, lead by the Florida Chamber Foundation, is currently underway. The report will document existing foreign and domestic trade flows by all modes of transportation to, from, within and through Florida. It will also project future foreign and domestic trade flows by all modes of transportation to, from, within and through Florida. Opportunities to compete at a new level in the global markets will be identified. A summary of the trends and indicators impacting global logistics decisions will be available in April. Gina Reynolds is a member of the freight analysis committee.
- Gina Reynolds was asked to participate on the Florida Chamber International Committee. Enterprise Florida, OTTED are a few of the others participating.
- Attended the Enterprise Florida Global Commerce meeting. Main point of discussion was the future growth in Florida and the key role international commerce will play. A presentation was given on the freight analysis.
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) was identified as an area that needed to be addressed during an Enterprise Florida strategic planning session. Workforce Florida funded a grant to develop a STEM strategic plan to improve STEM education. Focusing on elementary and middle school students, the intent is to peak interest in these fields in students of this age group. Continuing with STEM education in high school, STEMflorida is hopeful career choices in the STEM fields will increase. Terry Huddleston with CHS, Abe Pallas with LCCC and Shawn Justice with PBS&J attended a STEM focus group with me.
 - The IDA Board discussed the important roles that STEM and the school system play in economic development.
- The Go-To-Market Plan was shared with state partners and feedback was incorporated as needed.
- Attended the Employ Florida Banner Center for Logistics and Distribution Advisory Group meeting.

Old Business:

- Chair Brown reminded the IDA Board of the joint workshop with the County Commission on February 11th at 10:00 a.m. at the Lake Shore Hospital Authority.
- Vice Chair Norris thanked the IDA Board for accommodating her schedule and moving the Board meeting one day. She presented the Go-To-Market Columbia County Plan to the IDA Board.
- By consensus, the IDA Board recommended to present the plan to the Board of County Commissioners.
- Bylaws are being reviewed and will bring to the IDA Board at a future meeting.
- Policies and procedures are being reviewed and will bring to the IDA Board at a future meeting.

New Business:

- **Election of Officers:** Board discussed alternatives for election of Board officers. **Motion** by Carlton Jones **Second** by Marc Vann to appoint Suzanne Norris to serve as Chairman of the IDA Board for 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** **Motion** by Marc Vann **Second** by Suzanne Norris to appoint Donna Brown to serve as Vice Chair of the IDA Board for 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Fee for Lake Shore Hospital Authority facility:** **Motion** by Suzanne Norris **Second** by Gus Rentz to approve the payment to the Lake Shore Hospital Authority for use of the boardroom at a rate of \$25 per day. This approval includes the payment for using the facility on February 11th. **Motion carried unanimously.**

