



ROCK HILL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Board of Directors Meeting

August 1, 2023

The bimonthly meeting of the Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation (RHEDC) Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 12pm in-person at The Gathering Space at Kounter. Notice of the meeting was sent to all RHEDC members, City Economic Development staff, and media.

RHEDC Board Members Present:

Robert Alexander	Joel Hamilton	Jim Reno, City Council
John Black, City Council	Jerrienne Jackson	Justin Smith
Matt Dosch	Jack Leitner	David Vehaun, City Manager
Will Garrison	Stacey Moore	

RHEDC Board Members Absent

Dean Faile	Lester McCorn
Joanne Fockler	Wes Tuttle

Others Present:

John Blomberg	Harley Hubbard, Staff	Lisa Robbins
Celeste Tiller	David Lawrence, Staff	Greg Austin
Colleen Cousens	Cameryn Mitchell, Staff	Lain Reavis
Rebecca Melton	Elaine Wilmore, Staff	Tom George
Elssy Carpenter	Ed Duffy	Amy Faulkenberry
Amanda Baker	Paul Stratos	Christine Knouff
Charlotte Brown	Cathy Murphy, Staff	Gary Simrill
Melanie Cooper	Anthony Smith	Lori Robishaw
Mary Beth Edwards, Staff	Rick Norwood, Staff	Michael Szeman
David Williams	Tadean Page, Staff	Fredy Pabon
Allan Miller	Robert Capers	Mallory Snyder
		Penny Pratt

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:20pm; RHEDC Board Members and guests were welcomed.

II. Approve Minutes

Approval of the June 6, 2023, annual meeting minutes approved unanimously.

III. Financials

- a. The financials as of May 31, 2023, were presented and approved unanimously.
- b. Update on Financial Reporting:
 - i. CPA is issuing draft 2022 990 on Friday, August 4th.

- ii. On 7/27/23, Foard & Co. was chosen as new RHEDC auditing firm and will schedule dates for the 18-month audit ending June 30, 2023.
- iii. Foard & Co. will perform the Jan-June 2023 990 tax return along with the audit.
- iv. Burkett will continue to assist with monthly review.

IV. Director's Report

- a. RHEDC Packets: Board Members have a binder that consists of the following documents. – Contact List, Calendar, Committee Structure/Liaisons, By-Laws, FY2024 Budget, Conflict of Interest form, and Whistle-Blower Policy.

V. Committee Updates

- a. Overarching:
 - i. Committee meetings beginning in August.
 - ii. Initial work will be on Committee Composition, Goal setting, and Programmatic Opportunities.
- b. Business Recruitment & Expansion Committee:
 - i. Aspen Update
 - 1. WSR Project (Building B) is still in plan review stage.
 - 2. Phase One Infrastructure is complete.
 - 3. Phase Two Infrastructure
 - a. Estimated Cost \$5.9 million.
 - b. Need to develop a funding plan.
 - c. Confirm participation with development partner CK.
 - ii. Other sites/opportunities are under consideration.
- c. Placemaking Committee:
 - i. NEA Grant Opportunity – Our Town
 - 1. Goal – Apply for the Freedom Riders interpretive space.
 - 2. Previously funded through Our Town – Freedom Walkway & the Bleachery Heritage Project.
 - 3. Awards range between \$25k - \$125k; requires a 1 to 1 match.
 - 4. Due Date – August 17, 2023
 - ii. Freedom Walkway Ceremony – Tuesday, November 14th
- d. Small Business & Entrepreneurship:
 - i. Lender Financing Event (November 15th) with SBDC Partners
 - ii. SC Commerce – Relentless Challenge Grant
 - 1. Goal – Catalyze high-growth/high-impact entrepreneurship to accelerate a sustainable, knowledge-economy.
 - 2. Previously funded through Relentless – Office Hours expansion of Gravity Center in 2022; Gravity Center received in 2023.
 - 3. Award maximum is \$75k; requires a 1 to 1 match.
 - 4. Due Date – October 31, 2023
 - iii. EDA – Build to Scale's Venture Challenge Ignite
 - 1. Goal – Provide operational and programmatic funding to support the development of nascent technology-based ecosystems.
 - 2. Seeking to have a community needs audit/assessment to support a tech-based economic development strategy.
 - 3. New opportunity.
 - 4. Award maximum is \$300k; requires a 1 to 1 match.
 - 5. Due Date – July 28, 2023 (submitted)

iv. SBE Committee is in need of members – please email cathy.murphy@cityofrockhill.com if interested.

e. Workforce Development:

- i. Identifying funding sources to continue supporting the Talent Pipeline Program.
 1. Currently supporting 17 interns across 12 businesses.
- ii. Rock Hill + CareerVillage partnership showcased at the SC Education & Business Summit.
- iii. Personnel Changes – Cameryn Mitchell’s last day is August 4, 2023. Elaine Wilmore will take over Workforce Development duties.

VI. Chairman’s Remarks

M. Dosch spoke about the changes to the board and committees due to the Strategic Plan being put into place. He thanked everyone for their support.

VII. Other Business

No other business.

VIII. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the monthly meeting was adjourned at 12:53 PM.