



ROCK HILL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Executive Committee Meeting

November 7, 2023

The Executive Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at noon in City Hall Room 373.

Committee Members Present:

Robert Alexander	Joanne Fockler	Jim Reno
John Black	Joel Hamilton	
Matt Dosch	Stacey Moore	

Others Present:

Lisa Brown	David Lawrence	Tyler Cupp, WRHI
Mary Beth Edwards	Rick Norwood	

I. Call to Order: Call to order 12:04PM

II. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023, meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

III. Review and Approval of Financial Reports – Robert Alexander

- a. Gave an overview of the Statement of Activities and the Statement of Financial Position as of July 31, 2023.
 1. Reviewed SOA Budget vs Actual- Businesses with internships through Talent Pipeline were notified the program is ending 10/31/23 due to no remaining funds. RHEDC has two potential grant sources and hopes to relaunch program in 2024.
 2. Reviewed SFP PY Comparison – No significant changes to report.

IV. Old Business

- a. **Aspen Update**
 - i. BRE Committee requesting approval to add signage to Phase Two Infrastructure Plan, while staying within the original not to exceed expenses of \$90,000.
 - ii. Motion made to approve BRE Committee add signage to Phase Two Infrastructure Plan, while staying within original approved not to exceed expenses of \$90,000. Motion approved unanimously.
- b. **Gravity Center Update**
 - i. RHEDC is applying for Relentless Challenge Grant (RCG) on behalf of the Gravity Center Foundation with a match proposed from RHEDC/City.
 - ii. Gravity Center is seeking \$150k in total. The grant is for \$75,000 plus \$75k match (25% of which can be in-kind).

- iii. EUD staff member is spending about 5 hours weekly at the Gravity Center to assist with daily functions.
- c. Goals & Timeline
 - i. Refinement/Guide Rails
 - a. Workforce Development: Chair is Thomas Monroe with York Technical College.
 - i. Skills Gap Analysis by sector.
 - ii. Supporting Talent Development expansions – apprenticeships, internships, etc.
 - iii. Reinvigorate Talent Pipeline (funding, program focus, etc.).
 - iv. Focus on Veterans in supporting their reintegration into workforce.
 - v. Targeted Marketing.
 - b. Business Recruitment & Expansion: Chair is Robert Alexander, Retired.
 - i. Property Assessment & Development (Business Parks, Knowledge park, etc.).
 - ii. Small Area Plan & Creation (North Anderson Rd, Southside, Commerce Corridor, Cherry Rd).
 - iii. Assess current conditions (city boundaries, zoning, etc.).
 - iv. Opportunities for VCCs.
 - c. Small Business & Entrepreneurship: Chair is Raymond Crabb, Retired.
 - i. Build & Retain new and existing businesses.
 - ii. Eliminate operational barriers for new and existing businesses.
 - iii. Align with academic partnerships.
 - iv. Partner to market small businesses.
 - d. Placemaking: Chair is Melanie Cooper, Arts Council of York County.
 - i. Mural Mile expansion into Southside.
 - ii. Downtown Alley.
 - iii. Measure the economic impact of placemaking.
 - iv. Additional committee members are needed.
 - d. Timeline for FY24/FY25 Goals
 - i. Goals are for January 2024 to June 2025.
 - ii. November 2023 – Committees will finalize their goals.
 - iii. December 5, 2023 – RHEDC Board will vote on the proposed goals.
 - iv. January 22, 2024 – RHEDC Board and City Council Workshop on goals.
 - v. February 12, 2024 – RHEDC Goals on City Council Agenda.

V. New Business/Other

- a. Matt Dosch reported that Dr. Serna with Winthrop University has agreed to be on the board starting immediately.

- b. At 1:02 PM Jim Reno made a motion to go into Executive Session. Motion approved unanimously. Tyler Cupp with WRHI left the room.
- c. At 1:38 PM the motion was made to end Executive Session and approved unanimously. Tyler Cupp with WRHI returned to the room.
- d. Discussion of educational institutions providing a sit-in staff member for meetings when President/Director is unavailable.
- e. Motion made to extend invitation to Winthrop University to fill an open spot on the Board of Directors. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

<u>Upcoming Events</u>	<u>Details</u>
RHEDC Board Meeting	February 6 th - Noon at Kounter
Executive Committee	March 5 th – Noon at City Hall Room 373