

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK  
Meeting Minutes

The Economic Development Authority of the City of Norfolk called, and held, its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at 11:55AM at Military Circle Mall – 880 N. Military Hwy, Ste. #1166, Norfolk VA 23502.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Antonio Sisco – Chair  
Kim Brown  
Jaeson Dandalides  
Matthew Hales  
Richard Ottinger  
Henri Patten  
George Polizos  
Kelsey Host-Sarcone  
Carter Smith

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jared Chalk – Executive Director  
Sean Washington – Secretary-Treasurer  
Dawn Ryan – Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

**COUNSEL PRESENT:**

Barry Hunter – Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

**ABSENTEE DIRECTORS:**

Jeffrey Brooke – Vice Chair  
Morgan Whayland

**GUESTS:**

Robert Sharak – Department of Economic Development  
Mia Byrd - Department of Economic Development  
Katelyn Philleo - Department of Economic Development  
Dawn Best – Vansant & Gusler, Inc.  
John Kinsley – Image Business Interior  
Chris Murphy – SB Ballard  
Kristina Townsend - Divaris  
Tami Simonds – Divaris  
Emily Whalen – Divaris  
Billy Silverman – The Virginian Pilot  
Daniel Berti – The Virginian Pilot  
Trevor Metcalf – The Virginian Pilot

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairman Sisco called the meeting to order at 11:55 AM and thanked staff and directors present for attending.

Chairman Sisco asked if there were any public comments. There being none, he proceeded with the business of the meeting.

## **BRIEFING**

Chairman Sisco thanked the Directors that were present before the meeting for coming early for a tour and walk through of public space in Military Circle Mall building that Divaris staff directed.

Chairman Sisco asked the Directors to review the minutes of the June 8, 2022, Board meeting and provide any comments or corrections. There being no comments or corrections, Chairman Sisco entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Director Smith moved to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Director Sarcone and approved with one abstention from Mr. Ottinger. (Vote 6-0-1).

Chairman Sisco then introduced the newest member of the EDA Board of Directors, Dr. Henri Patten.

## **AGENDA OVERVIEW**

Mr. Chalk reviewed the agenda items and reported that the Norfolk Department of Economic Development was moving forward with its Strategic Planning Process. He then introduced Mia Byrd as the new marketing manager who will help rebrand Norfolk, using new digital effects.

## **NEW BUSINESS / UPDATES**

Mr. Chalk introduced the first presenter on the agenda: Bob Sharak, Bureau Manager in the Department of Economic Development for the City of Norfolk. Mr. Sharak briefed the Board on a Resolution that would authorize the EDA to apply for a grant under the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's FY 2023 Industrial Revitalization Fund Program funded under the American Rescue Plan Act. The grant funds would help cover some of the renovating costs associated with the 35<sup>th</sup> Street Rosna Theater. The application is due by August 19<sup>th</sup> and would be for two million dollars, subject to a one to one

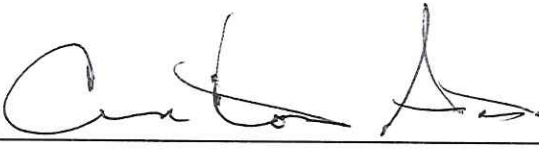
match. Upon a motion by Director Ottinger and seconded by Director Smith, the resolution was unanimously approved. Vote was 7-0-0 (Attachment #1)

Mr. Sharak also presented an update on the Port Host Cities Grant application process. The pre-application for a grant to assist with the redevelopment of Lamberts Point Dock was completed earlier in the week. The amount of the annual grant is \$250,000, but the request can be made for up to one million dollars with a one to one match. The EDA partners would fund the required match and an administrative charge can be built in so there is no cost to the EDA. Staff to be hired in a few months will include a grant writing employee and two additional full-time staff members.

Mr. Chalk requested the Divaris team to update the Board on the physical and financial condition of Military Circle Mall and explain what improvements would need to be made for the Mall to continue operating. The Divaris team reported on alternative approaches, noting the up-front capital expenditures and operating expenses that would be incurred for each alternative. To continue operating the Mall, the roof would have to be replaced at a cost of five million dollars. The chillers would also have to be replaced. Director Hales arrived at 12:13 PM. If the Mall were to remain vacant but not demolished, the EDA would have to pay for insurance and deal with security issues. The demolition costs included demolition of buildings on the out parcels. Mr. Chalk explained that, without those improvements and paying tenants, the Mall would remain on the EDA's books with a negative balance. After some discussion, the Board agreed to have the EDA and Divaris staff notify tenants of the intended closure of the Mall and work to relocate the tenants to other available space within the City. Upon motion by Director Ottinger and seconded by Director Hales, the Board authorized and directed the Executive Director to proceed with a tenant relocation plan for Military Circle Mall and take initial steps for demolition with a view to close the Mall by the end of 2022 and commence demolition in the first quarter of 2023. Vote was 8-0-0.

Chairman Sisco reminded the Directors that they had an event at Harbor Park on August 19, 2022.

Chairman Sisco asked for any additional questions or concerns. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 12:23 PM.

Approved by  \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments:

1. Resolution for Industrial Revitalization Fund