

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, September 7, 2022, at 12:02 PM 4th floor of the Dominion Tower, 999 Waterside Drive, Suite 400 Norfolk, Virginia 23510.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Antonio Sisco – Chair
Jeffrey Brooke – Vice Chair
Kim Brown
Jaeson Dandalides
Richard Ottinger
Henri Patten
George Polizos
Kelsey Host-Sarcone
Carter Smith
Morgan Whayland

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:

Matthew Hales

GUESTS:

Katelyn Philleo – Department of Economic Development
Robert Sharak – Department of Economic Development
Mia Byrd - Department of Economic Development
Maya Keplinger - - Department of Economic Development
Dawn Best – Vansant & Gusler, Inc.
Blair Durham – Black Brand LLC

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Sisco called the meeting to order at 12:02PM 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 asked the Directors to review the minutes of the August 3, 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 Ottinger moved to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Director Sarcone and unanimously approved. (Vote 8-0-0).

AGENDA OVERVIEW

Mr. Chalk reviewed the agenda items and reported that although he was leaving, the Norfolk Department of Economic Development was moving forward with business as usual. He presented the Board with an updated organizational chart, noting a few changes to titles of staff and the addition of the Business Creation and Entrepreneurship department. (Attachment #1) (Director Dandalides arrived 12:11PM and Director Brown arrived 12:12PM)

NEW BUSINESS / UPDATES

Mr. Chalk introduced the first presenter on the agenda: Blair Durham – Black Brand X City of Norfolk and member of the Black Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Durham updated the Board on highlights of the past year, noting that Black Brand X now has 5,300 sq.ft. of office space in downtown. Black Brand X expects over 500 participants at their event in November, with 5 Tracks and 60 hours of content. Black Brand X has contracted with the Harbor Club, the Half Moon Cruise Center, and the Granby Theater for social events. They have also partnered with Pharrell's Elephant in the Room. Black Brand X is currently preparing for the Black Diamond

Weekend which will be held November 10-12, 2022. B-Force on 32 Norfolk-based businesses have graduated from the program. (Attachment #2)

Mr. Sharak presented an update on the Port Host Cities Grant. This grant will work similar to the Willis Building grant. The EDA would be asking for \$1M and would get a minimum of \$300,000 by December, 2022, if awarded. (Director Host-Sarcone stepped out 12:28PM). A Resolution was presented for the application of a grant under the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's FY 2023 Port Host Communities Revitalization Fund Program. Upon motion by Director Brooke and seconded by Director Brown, the Resolution was unanimously approved by all Directors present. (Vote 9-0-0). (Attachment #3)

Mr. Washington presented a Resolution to approve a loan to Merry Widow LLC. (Director Host-Sarcone returned at 12:29PM). Merry Widow LLC is a business in the Riverview Community. They are purchasing the business, Café Blanca on Granby, with a \$100,000 loan. VCC is in the process of underwriting the loan package and approval of the loan will be contingent upon approval by the Loan Review Committee when they meet later in the week. Upon motion by Director Host-Sarcone, and seconded by Director Smith, the loan was approved contingent on the Loan Review Committee approval. (Vote 10-0-0) (Attachment #4)

Mr. Washington gave an update on Military Circle Mall and where the EDA stands financially with respect to the project. Mr. Washington detailed some of the major costs which results in a \$800,000 loss, even with the inclusion of the \$2.5M Settlement from Cinemark. He noted other costs relating to the physical condition of the improvements, and the timeline for speaking with tenants regarding the January 31st, 2023 closing date.

Mr. Hunter discussed updating the Remote Participation Resolution, including the recent statutory change allowing people to participate remotely if a meeting is held more than 60 miles from their residence. Upon motion by Director Brooke, and seconded by Director Brown, the Board approved the Resolution updating the EDA's Remote Participation Policy.

Chairman Sisco reminded the Board that, yearly, the Board is to elect the EDA Officers. He asked for at least 3 volunteers to serve on a nominating committee.

CLOSED SESSION

Director Smith presented the following motion for consideration by the Board, which motion was seconded by Director Brown, and unanimously approved:

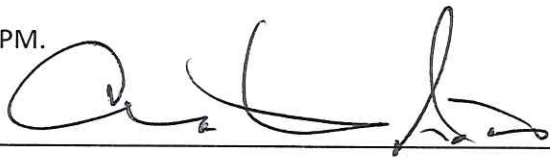
Mr. Chairman, I move that the Directors of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Norfolk convene in a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion or consideration of the potential resignation of the Executive Director. Roll call vote: Director Brooke, Director Brown, Director Dandalides, Director Polizos, Director Smith, Director Ottinger, Director Patten, Director Sisco, Director Host-Sarcone, and Director Whayland, all aye. (Vote 10-0-0)

After reconvening in an open meeting, the Directors unanimously approved the following certification:

"The Directors of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Norfolk certify that to the best of their knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened, were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Directors of the Authority." Roll Call vote: Director Brooke, Director Brown, Director Dandalides, Director Polizos, Director Smith, Director Ottinger, Director Patten, Director Sisco, Director Host-Sarcone, and Director Whayland, all aye. (Vote 10-0-0)

After the Closed Session, Jared Chalk publicly resigned as Executive Director of the EDA. After a brief discussion, Director Smith moved to elect Sean Washington as the interim Executive Director, which motion was seconded by Director Brown, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Sisco asked if there were any additional questions or concerns. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Approved by  _____

Attachments:

1. Directors Report – Organizational Chart
2. Black Brand LLC – presentation
3. Resolution for Industrial Revitalization Fund
4. Loan Resolution – Merry Widow, LLC