

**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 2, 2023, at 12:00 Noon, 4th floor of the Dominion Tower, 999 Waterside Drive, Suite 400 Norfolk, Virginia 23510.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Antonio Sisco – Chair  
Kim Brown  
Jaeson Dandalides  
Richard Ottinger  
Carter Smith (remote)  
George Polizos  
Morgan Whayland  
Henri Patten  
Simon H. Scott

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Sean Washington – Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer  
Dawn Ryan – Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

**COUNSEL PRESENT:**

Barry Hunter – Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

**ABSENTEE DIRECTORS:**

Kelsey Host-Sarcone  
Jeffrey Brooke

**GUESTS:**

Michael Paris – Department of Economic Development  
Bob Sharak - Department of Economic Development  
Nihal Vasty – Department of Economic Development  
Alaa Sabbagh – Department of Economic Development  
Cameron Taylor - Department of Economic Development  
Mike Roggow – Department of Finance  
Margeret Eps – City's Office of Resilience  
Leslie Hoglund – Old Dominion University  
Larry Pendleton – Planning Commission

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairman Sisco called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM and thanked staff and directors present for attending.

After it was confirmed that Director Smith's voice could be heard by persons present at the meeting location, Director Brown moved to allow Director Smith to participate remotely. Director Patten seconded the motion, which motion passed by a vote (8-0-0). Director Smith's request to participate remotely was due to a personal matter: his business required him to travel out of state for a meeting. Director Smith participated remotely from Nashville, TN. This was the first time Director Smith has participated remotely for a personal reason in the calendar year 2023.

Chairman Sisco cordially welcomed Simon H. Scott as the newest Director. Scott currently holds the position of Director of Employee & Labor Relations at Dominion Energy.

## **MINUTES**

Chairman Sisco asked the Directors to review the minutes of the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. There being no comments or corrections, Chairman Sisco entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Director Patten moved to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Director Ottinger. The motion was approved with Director Scott abstaining (Vote 8-0-1).

## **AGENDA OVERVIEW**

Mr. Washington reviewed the agenda, which contained a Director's Report, financial updates, Food Policy Council, Commercial Corridor Agreement Resolution, Princo LLC Resolution, and VA Medical Option Agreement Resolution.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

Mr. Washington gave the Board an overview of the Development's strategy that will include vision, intentionality, and essentialism with fewer things being done better. Mr. Washington then discussed the Department of Economic Development's highlights since the last Board meeting, addressing the department's vision and mission. He emphasized the goal of becoming a trusted leader and outlined

the primary areas of focus for achieving this objective, which include fostering stimulated exclusive economic growth. Additionally, Mr. Washington discussed the utilization of HubSpot for generating reports within the team's operations.

Mr. Washington provided an update on the Commercial Corridor. He informed the Board that Anderson + Bohlander visited Norfolk on July 31st and August 1st. They held a meeting with the Riverview Business Association on Monday evening and another meeting with the association in Park Place on Tuesday. This marked their third engagement with the community, resulting in a final report based on community feedback. Mr. Washington reported that the Facade Improvement Grant application portal was opened on August 1. Mr. Washington also mentioned that Commercial Corridor Technical Assistance will be partnered with Black BRAND, utilizing the remaining Rockefeller Foundation Grant. Mr. Washington informed the Board that Norfolk Works received two bronze awards from the IEDC in the Multimedia/Video Promotion Category for the Weld Now - Women in Welding Video. He also informed the Board on the ongoing efforts to promote the newsletter. He mentioned that the approach is modeled after the Director's report. He informed them that signing up for the digital newsletter is possible through the department's website. He also provided details about his recent trip to Germany as part of the HREDA Workforce Readiness Delegation. The trip took place from July 16<sup>th</sup> to July 20<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, Mr. Washington presented the financial update report. Mr. Washington concluded his report by directing the attention of the Chairman and the Board to an upcoming event. In September, there will be elections for officer positions, including Chairman, Vice Chairman, Executive Director, Secretary-Treasurer, and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. Chairman Sisco stated that he will be forming a selection committee to present the nominations for these positions. He invited Board members who were interested in serving on the committee to speak with him after the meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS / UPDATES**

Mr. Washington introduced Ms. Margaret Epps and Leslie Hoglund and gave a brief overview of the Food Policy Council. Ms. Margaret Epps and Leslie Hoglund delivered an overview of the Food Policy

Council. They covered the organization's vision, mission, and core values. Expanding on their approach, they explained how they are actively progressing towards their mission. Additionally, they highlighted the significance of the Nutritional Equity Fund in their efforts. (Attachment #2)

Mr. Vasty delivered a presentation on the Commercial Corridor Grant Agreement Resolution to the Board. He explained that the program aims to rejuvenate local commercial corridors by addressing blight and filling vacancies. The initiative encompasses a \$50,000 grant for property owners and a \$25,000 grant for tenants. Interested applicants must participate in a workshop led by either Mr. Vasty or Mr. Wayne Green to apply. Workshop dates and locations, along with a comprehensive list of necessary documents, can be found on the website. The next meeting with the Board for decision-making is anticipated in October. A motion was made by Director Ottinger to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Director Brown and unanimously approved. (Vote 9-0-0). (Attachment #3)

Mr. Sharak presented the Princo Resolution, which approved, and authorized execution of, a Performance Agreement among the EDA, VEDP and Princo regarding a \$50,000.00 Performance Grant from the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund. A motion was made by Director Brown to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Director Patten and unanimously approved. (Vote 9-0-0). (Attachment #4)

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Director Polizos presented the following motion for consideration by the Board, which motion was seconded by Director Sisco and unanimously approved by roll call vote:

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.3 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion and consideration of the disposition of publicly held real property located in the North Military Highway area of the City where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the Authority's bargaining position or negotiating strategy." Roll call vote: Director Sisco, Director Patten, Director Brown,



Director Dandalides, Director Ottinger, Director Smith, Director Polizos, Director Whayland, and Director Scott all ayes.

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 Sisco, Director Patten, Director Brown, Director Dandalides, Director Ottinger, Director Smith, Director Polizos, Director Whayland, and Director Scott all ayes. (Vote 9-0-0).

Upon motion made by Director Brown and seconded by Director Ottinger, one abstention from Director Simon Scott. (Vote 8-0-1)

Mr. Washington and Mr. Hunter presented the VA Medical Option Agreement Resolution to the Board. A motion was made by Director Brown to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Director Ottinger, and approved with one abstention from Director Scott (who indicated that since he was newly appointed to the Board and not familiar with the Option Agreement, he felt he should not vote on the resolution). (Vote 8-0-1) (Attachment #5)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 PM.

Approved by 

Attachments:

1. Director's Report – Presentation
2. Food Policy Council – Presentation
3. Commercial Corridor Grant Agreement – Resolution
4. Princo LLC – Resolution
5. VA Medical Option Agreement – Resolution