



## **GREENE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 @ 6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

Due to Covid-19, this meeting was held via Zoom Video Conference

### **CALL TO ORDER**

- A meeting of the Economic Development Authority Board of Directors was held via Zoom Video Conference on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. Call to order at 6:34 pm with Mr. James Tsikerdanos, Chairman, presiding.

### **RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

- Members in Attendance: James Tsikerdanos, Michael Payne, Whitt Ledford, Julia Roberts, Matt Sweetanos
- Members Absent: Paul Reickart
- Non-Members in Attendance: Abbey Heflin, Alan Yost, Diana Gamma

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- Minutes from November 16, 2021, were distributed electronically to all board members. Mrs. Roberts moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Ledford seconded. Motion passed.

### **FINANCIALS**

- P & L and Balance sheets for EDA and Tourism were distributed electronically to all board members. No questions. Mrs. Roberts moved to accept the financial reports. Mr. Ledford seconded. Motion passed.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, and the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM DIRECTOR**

- Mr. Yost – nothing to report
- Mrs. Heflin – will be the new BOS liaison to the EDA

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- No comments

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Update on Agricultural Support Initiative
  - Mr. Tsikerdanos and Mrs. Heflin met with Sarah Sharp from the extension office and discussed how to support the agriculture initiative; Ms. Sharp noted that meat processing facilities are being opened regionally (Orange County and Madison County); a paid feasibility study would be required in order to have one in Greene and may not be cost effective. Processing cannabis is not difficult and might be able to be processed at the farm level as opposed to a processing plant; Ms. Sharp indicated that a local commercial kitchen would be beneficial to the farmer. Investigation will continue by the EDA.
  - Mr. Ledford – mentioned that Greene Commons and the Greene Farmers Market worked hard to acquire funds to expand with a potential year-round market; mentioned that the Greene Tech school has a commercial kitchen

## NEW BUSINESS

- Guest Speaker – retired Col. Lettie Bien - Defense Affairs Committee (DAC) – gave a presentation on DAC
  - DAC has an office in North Fork, formerly the UVA Research Park
  - Regional Profile of Defense/Military in the Region
    - 2018 study: ~19K veteran in the region, ~2500 defense industry employees, ~2300 Rivanna Station employees (owned by Fort Belvoir; NGA, NGIC, DIA), economic impact for Greene County is ~\$8.29M
  - DAC started in 2009 and hired a program manager in 2020 to really get it going
    - The Purpose is to foster economic vitality by strengthening the alliance of relationships among and engagement with:
      - Chamber network
      - Central VA community with focus on Albemarle, Charlottesville, and Greene
      - Regional defense & intelligence community
      - Active duty military, USAR, NG veterans and families
    - Partnerships
      - Greene County is a lead funder of DAC Program Manager position with Mr. Yost serving on the Leadership Council
      - Schools and local government
      - Our Community Salutes program
    - Recent programs
      - Established a welcome/reception center for military personnel, local veterans, and families
      - Published resource lists
      - Service Awards luncheon
      - Tech4Troops Campaign
      - Support to Alb County NDCC/JROTC
      - For NGIC, provided in-processing location due to Covid restraints at NGIC, developed welcome packet, maintaining visibility on status of Nicholson building expansion
    - Program Updates Moving forward
      - Revise DAC Action Plan to focus and expand on activities; assist with DMC submission
      - Identify military family challenges and engage community solutions
      - Workforce related Activities
      - Establish coordinated process for spouses/partners of military and DoD/DA civilians to find worthwhile employment during time in the region
      - Update economic Impact study
    - Next DAC meeting January 27; register to attend via zoom; all are welcome
- Guest Speaker - Andrew Murphy co-founder of Sojourner Glamping
  - Provided power point about their proposed project in Greene County
  - Glamping: camping meets resort-style amenities; nature retreat, family friendly, proximity to SNP
  - Site: magnificent mountain views, proximity to SNP, beauty of Greene County, ideal location for a Sojourner Retreat
  - Architecture - Celebrate rural character of the area; barn-like structures; muted color tents
  - Amenities – available to guests as well as the community
  - Consistent with Greene’s Comprehensive plan
  - Consistent with Greene’s target market (DC, RIC)
  - Benefits

- Elevate county as a top-rated tourist destination
- Increase local tax revenue (\$3.8 M over 1st 5 years)
- Increase local employment, training, and internship opportunities
- Distribution of local food products at restaurant and camp store
- Support local businesses, from waste collection to vehicle servicing
- Less demand on county schools and resources than a 29 home subdivision
- Contact
  - [andy@crimsonrockcapital.com](mailto:andy@crimsonrockcapital.com)
  - 703-209-0468
- When Mr. Murphy left the meeting, discussion continued between the EDA board members regarding the project (Mr. Tsikerdanos, and Mr. Payne spoke positively of the project; Mr. Ledford does not support the project; Mr. Sweetanos and Mrs. Roberts did not comment)
- Mr. Yost reported on TOT
  - FY 2021 collections increased 15% from FY 2020
  - FY 2022 collections to date have increased 55% from the same 6-month period in FY 2021

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

- The next regular meeting of the EDA will be on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Mr. Ledford moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sweetanos seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.