



ROCK HILL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Board of Directors Meeting

October 1, 2024

The Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation (RHEDC) Board of Directors met on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 12:00 pm in-person at The Gathering Space at Kounter. Notice of the meeting was sent to all RHEDC members, City of Rock Hill Economic Development staff, and media.

RHEDC Board Members Present:

Robert Alexander	Joanne Fockler	Dr. Lester McCorn
John Black, City Council	Will Garrison	Dr. Edward Serna
Matt Dosch	Joel Hamilton	Justin Smith
Dean Faile	Jack Leitner	

RHEDC Board Members Absent

Jerrienne Jackson	Jim Reno, City Council	David Vehaun, City Manager
Dr. Stacey Moore	Wes Tuttle	

Others Present:

John Blomberg	Stacie Harrison	Grazier Rhea
Lisa Brown, Staff	Matthew Kreh, Staff	Dr. Felicia Robinson
Lynda Burke	David Lawrence, Staff	Becky Ross
Colleen Coesens	Rick Lee	Quanisha Savage
Melanie Cooper	Amy Massey	Anthony Smith
Ray Crabb	Jordan McCraw	Joy Smith
Tyler Cupp	Nathan Mellichamp	Paul Stratos
Harris Doulaveris	Allan Miller	Eduardo Venegas, Staff
Ed Duffy	Mitch Miller	Andrew Vinson
Jason Flora, Staff	Thomas Monroe	Dontavius Williams
John Gettys, Mayor	Branden Murr	Serena Williams
Michael Guidry	Bobby Plair Jr.	Elaine Wilmore, Staff

- I. **Call to Order and Welcome.....Matt Dosch, RHEDC Chair**
The meeting was called to order at 12:35 pm; RHEDC Board Members and guests were welcomed. Chairman Dosch recognized utility crews, first responders, charities and volunteers for their contributions in the aftermath of storms which hit South Carolina and North Carolina. US Foods and Chef Rob Masone were recognized for their efforts to provide meals to people affected and helping to rebuild in western North Carolina. Mr. Mitch Miller, Interim Director at York County Economic Development, was welcomed.
- II. **Approval of June 4, 2024 Annual Board Meeting Minutes....Matt Dosch, RHEDC Chair**
Review and Consider Approval of June 4, 2024, Annual Board Meeting Minutes.
Motion made by Robert Alexander, unanimous second. All in favor, motion carried.
- III. **Approval of July 31, 2024 Financial Statements...Robert Alexander, RHEDC Vice-Chair**

Review and Consider Approval of July 31, 2024 Financial Statements.
Motion made by Robert Alexander, unanimous second. All in favor, motion carried.
(Board unanimously approved the July 31, 2024 Financial Statements)

- IV. **Presentation and Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Audit**
Terry Lancaster, Foard and Company, presented the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Audit.
Motion made by Joel Hamilton, second by Dean Faile to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Audit. All in favor, motion carried.
(Board unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Audit)

V. **Committee Updates**

Committee Updates.....Matt Dosch, RHEDC Chair

The Business Recruitment and Expansion Committee continues to work on Aspen Business Park. Childress Klein has submitted plans for a 200,000 SF spec. building. Phase 2 road extension plans are in plan review at the City of Rock Hill. Considering funding options for Phase 2 and Phase 2A roadway extensions. On the Technology Business Ecosystem Mapping and Attraction Strategy project, TIP Strategies returns to Rock Hill 10/28-10/30. Nine more constituencies will meet with TIP Strategies to provide insights. A broad definition of technology is being used.

The Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee is pursuing improvements to address six priority issues affecting small business. Small business assistance resources are being brought together and a resource guide is being made to promote resources across York County. Student Made Rock Hill is being developed to give hands-on business experience to Winthrop University students.

The Workforce Development Committee has relaunched the Talent Pipeline program; more small business employers are being sought for participation.

Focus on Placemaking.....Melanie Cooper, Committee Chair

Melanie Cooper reported on several placemaking projects. Recent additions to the Mural Mile were reviewed along with future opportunities being considered. The Alleyways Reimagined Initiative was reviewed. A new agreement with the Women’s Art Initiative has been signed covering a 5-year period. The first project will focus on alleyway improvements near the Rock Hill Sports and Events Center. Other items being pursued include a cultural/music trail, Southside placemaking opportunities and an ETV documentary about the Rock Hill murals.

Other Business

Winthrop University Strategic Plan.....Dr. Edward Serna, President

Dr. Edward Serna presented the “United in Excellence” Strategic Plan 2024-2027. He began by acknowledging a disconnect that existed between Winthrop University and the city’s growth. He explained how Winthrop University was not involved with the Knowledge Park efforts as much as it should have been. Many positive data points were shared including being ranked 5th by U.S. News for Southern public universities, having a \$200+ million annual economic impact, 4,891 students enrolled and having 130 years in Rock Hill. The planning process involved over 800 responses, 100 interviews, 15 focus groups and 15+ surveys and questionnaires.

The five pillars of the Strategic Plan are: Excel, Educate, Enrich, Engage and Enhance.

Under “Educate”, Winthrop has launched new degree programs, a new Honors College and a competency-based Bachelor’s program.

Under “Excel”, a branding and marketing initiative will be launched to tell Winthrop’s story

and differentiate it from the competition.

Under “Enrich”, a focus will be pursued to enhance student life and traditions.

Under “Engage”, efforts will be made to increase donor sponsorships and annual and major gifts.

Under “Enhance”, a 10-year roadmap for facilities as well as computing and technology projects will be created.

The overall goal is to enhance Winthrop’s stature as a regional comprehensive public university.

Pennies for Progress.....Rick Lee

Rick Lee from Citizens for Safer & Better Roads presented information on the upcoming vote to authorize Pennies for Progress again. This Capital Project Sales Tax Referendum has passed four times as a one percent sales tax addition. \$1 billion in road improvements occurred from the Pennies 1-4 programs. If approved, \$410 million is expected to be collected over a 7-year period. Key projects funded in the past under Pennies for Progress were reviewed. A list of projects to be addressed if the referendum is approved was presented also. The goals of improving safety, connectivity, prosperity and quality of life were discussed.

VI. Adjourn.....Matt Dosch, RHEDC Chair

Upcoming dates for RHEDC committees were provided. All in attendance were thanked for their participation.