



**ROCK HILL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Board of Directors Meeting**

February 4, 2025

The Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation (RHEDC) Board of Directors met on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 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	Dean Faile	Jim Reno, City Council
John Black, City Council	Joel Hamilton	Justin Smith
Matt Dosch	Jerrienne Jackson	Wes Tuttle

RHEDC Board Members Absent

Joanne Fockler	Jack Leitner	Dr. Edward Serna
Will Garrison	Dr. Lester McCorn	David Vehaun, City Manager
	Dr. Stacey Moore	

Others Present:

John Blomberg	Jason Flora, Staff	Rick Norwood, Staff
Lisa Brown, Staff	Mike Geddings	Ryan Sanderson
Lynda Burke	John Gettys, Mayor	Quanisha Savage
Colleen Coesens	Matthew Kreh, Staff	Joy Smith
Jamie Cooper	Samantha Kriegshauser	Bob Vande Weghe
Melanie Cooper	David Lawrence, Staff	Eduardo Venegas, Staff
Raymond Crabb	Amy Massey	Andrew Vinson
Tyler Cupp, WRHI	Jordan McCraw	David Williams
Ed Duffy	Nathan Mellichamp	Elaine Wilmore, Staff
Sheena Edwards	Allan Miller	Shannon Woody

I. Call to Order and Welcome.....Matt Dosch

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 pm. RHEDC Board Members and guests were welcomed. David Lawrence introduced Bob Vande Weghe, a commercial real estate developer, as a guest. Members of the Gravity Center Foundation Board of Directors were welcomed also.

II. Approval of December 3, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.....Matt Dosch

Review and Consider Approval of December 3, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes
Motion made by Jerrienne Jackson, second made by Dean Faile. All in favor, motion carried.

Matt Dosch reported that the 2025 RHEDC Goals, a scope of work to be pursued, were approved by City Council. He recognized the committee chairs, staff and members for working hard to create the goals.

III. Approval of November 30, 2024 Financial Statements.....Robert Alexander
Review and Consider Approval of November 30, 2024 Financial Statements.

Robert Alexander reviewed the key points of the Statement of Financial Position with assets being up and equity being down. Two new grants were reflected in the numbers along with funds committed to a brownfield project. On the Statement of Activities, revenue is below budget. Invoicing to receive reimbursements from City of Rock Hill is late due to staffing issues but happening now.

The two financial reports come from Executive Committee with approval, motion made by Justin Smith, second made by Wes Tuttle. All in favor, motion carried.

IV. Governance.....Matt Dosch

Matt Dosch reviewed proposed by-law changes which create a Nominating Committee and give guidelines for its functions. A revised set of bylaws showing the proposed changes was distributed. Following a notice period, board members voted on the by-law changes. Motion made by Justin Smith, seconded by Jim Reno to accept the proposed RHEDC by-laws changes to create a Nominating Committee. Votes were collected via email with unanimous support voting in favor of the motion.

V. Committee Updates

Focus on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.....Raymond Crabb

Raymond Crabb gave a presentation on the goals and pursuits of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. He reported that the committee is very active with typical meeting attendance above 15 persons. Business representatives from Cherry Road and Riverwalk have joined recently; the committee was mostly downtown focused before.

A York County Small Business Resource Guide has been created. It offers a matrix providing information on the resources available to local businesses including funding, workforce development and contacts for local organizations.

Six priority areas were identified: small business incentives, improving communication with City of Rock Hill, regulatory issues, marketing, creation of a social district and access to resources and data. The need for a marketing plan to promote services and the community for investment, relocation and growth was discussed.

Data collected through a survey (1,600 responses) focused on downtown customer needs and market opportunities was unveiled at a recent business mixer where over 55 people attended. The key points were shared as part of the presentation also.

Student Made, a project to open and operate a retail store operated by college students in downtown will open soon. Eduardo Venegas was recognized for his efforts to support small business and implement these projects.

VI. Other Business.....Ryan Sanderson

Matt Dosch introduced Ryan Sanderson, Chairperson of The Gravity Center Foundation. Ryan Sanderson discussed how RHEDC and The Gravity Center have had a long relationship. A new partnership will renew the relationship. The strategic aims of The Gravity Center Foundation include Launch Fuel (formerly Venture Mentoring Service) by the end of February. Hire a Program Coordinator to support operations and hire a Chief Impact Officer to lead strategic growth by the end of the year, develop and launch an ideation program, complete the entrepreneurial curriculum roadmap with York Technical College.

The mission of the organization is to support an ecosystem that accelerates entrepreneurial growth. The organization's nine board members were introduced.

VII. **Adjournment**

Matt Dosch adjourned the meeting at 1:02 pm.