

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES
April 15, 2025
Room 241 4:00 P.M.**

Directors present: Don Long, Chair; Jeff Morrill, Vice-chair; Andrea Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer (remote); David Storm; Steve Hood; Frank Friedman; and Bill Mechnick.

Directors absent:

Staff present: Emily Kilroy, Director of Economic Development; Johnathan Newberry, Deputy Director of Economic Development; Ashley Hernandorena, Business Development Manager; Avery Thompson, Management Analyst III; Jeanette Ark, Project Manager; Lauren Bohdan, Senior Assistant County Attorney; Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, Board of Supervisors Liaison to the EDA, Rivanna District; Trevor Henry, Deputy County Executive

Staff absent: None.

1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum

Chair Long called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Motion to permit Director Johnson to participate in the meeting remotely due to a work conflict was made by Director Morrill and seconded by Director Storm.

MOTION: The motion carried unanimously.

2. Matters from the Public

Economic Development Director Emily Kilroy confirmed no speakers had signed up or raised their hands to speak.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 6 and March 18, 2025 meetings was made by Director Hood and seconded by Director Morrill.

MOTION: The motion carried unanimously. (Ms. Johnson was remote)

4. Financial Report

Avery Thompson provided the financial report. He noted the changes from previous month.

Motion to adopt the April 9, 2025 Financial Report was made by Director Storm and seconded by Director Hood.

MOTION: The motion carried unanimously. (Ms. Johnson was remote)

Economic Development Authority
of Albemarle County, Virginia
April 15, 2025
Page 2

5. Unfinished Business

There was none.

6. New Business

a. Staff Report

Ms. Kilroy provided the staff report. She announced that a position had been posted for a senior manager for the Economic Development Office, and the applications would be accepted through April 24. She noted that the PT Hotel bond issuance closed, with Wells Fargo being the bond purchaser. She said the funds from the closing fee would be reflected in the May financial report. She said that the MOU with the County was included on the consent agenda for the April 16 Board meeting.

Ms. Kilroy said that Rivanna Futures design work was underway, funded by the Go Virginia grant. She said that the VBRs program had scheduled an in-person site visit during the last week of April as a follow-up to the virtual site visit. She reported that she and Ms. Hernandorena attended the VEDA quarterly meeting, held in Newport News, and the theme was Art and Science.

Ms. Kilroy said that the seventh and final budget town hall was held recently, where they heard from between 20 to 35 community members. She said that the BEACON shared commercial kitchen project celebrated its opening a couple of weeks ago.

Ms. Hernandorena announced that the Piedmont Pitch was hosting its third annual event, and she would be able to register anyone who would like to attend.

Ms. Kilroy said that on Thursday at 2:15 p.m., as part of the TomTom Festival, she would be presenting on the Route 29 North innovation corridor as part of a panel discussion. She said that the festival programming began on Wednesday and would run through the weekend. She said that the consultant team assigned to the strategic plan update spent two days receiving community feedback from 85 participants, and they had organized a series of sector-based roundtable discussions.

Ms. Kilroy said that staff planned to meet with the consultants during the first week of May to review the draft framework of the strategic plan, after which, they would address next steps. She said that a work session was scheduled with the Board of Supervisors in May, and on August 13, a joint meeting was scheduled between the Board, EDA, and the consultant, and the Board would take action at the meeting.

7. Closed Session in Room 241

CLOSED MEETING MOTION

Economic Development Authority
of Albemarle County, Virginia

April 15, 2025

Page 3

I move that the Albemarle County Economic Development Authority go into a closed meeting as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia under:

- Subsection 6 to discuss and consider:

The investment of public funds related to an Economic Opportunity Fund Performance Agreement with Bonumose, Inc., where bargaining is involved and where, if made public initially, would adversely affect the financial interest of the County; and

- Subsection 8 to discuss and consider:

Consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters related to Bonumose, Inc., Performance Agreement, which requires the provision of legal advice by such counsel; and

- Subsection 29 to discuss and consider:

The award of a public contract related to the Performance Agreement with Bonumose, Inc., that involves the expenditure of public funds, the public discussion of which would adversely affect the negotiating strategy of the EDA regarding the terms of the performance agreement.

Motion to authorize a closed meeting was made by Chair Long and seconded by Director Storm.

MOTION: The motion carried unanimously. (Ms. Johnson was remote)

Motion to certify the closed session was made by Chair Long and seconded by Director Morill.

MOTION: The motion carried unanimously. (Ms. Johnson was remote)

8. Other Matters

- a. Siller Pollinator - Demonstration following the meeting.

The meeting adjourned prior to the demonstration.

9. Adjourn

Chair Long adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m. The next meeting is May 20th, 2025, in Room 241.

Economic Development Authority
of Albemarle County, Virginia
April 15, 2025
Page 4

Signed by:
Teste: Donald D. Long
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Donald Long, Chairman

Signed by:
Approved: Emily Kilroy
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Emily Kilroy, Assistant Secretary