

ALBEMARLE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY JOINT MEETING MINUTES
15 September 2026
City Space 4:00 P.M.

Directors present: Don Long, Chair; Steve Hood, Vice-chair; David Storm; Frank Friedman; Bill Mechnick;

Directors absent: Andrea Johnson, Secretary Treasurer; Andrew Cox

Staff present: Emily Kilroy, Director of Economic Development; Ashley Hernandorena, Business Development Manager; Avery Thompson, Management Analyst III; Connor McAlevy, Senior Manager for Economic Development; Gabriel Boisvert, Senior Assistant County Attorney; Lauren Bodhan, Senior Assistant County Attorney; Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, Board of Supervisors Liaison to the EDA, Rivanna District; Trevor Henry, Deputy County Executive

Staff absent: None.

Charlottesville Directors Present: Addison Barnhardt; Quinton Harrell; James Cauthen; Steven Johnson; Denise Herndon; Gareth Gaston

1. Call to Order

Chair Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Mr. Barnhardt welcomed all the EDA Board members and guests to the meeting.

2. Matters from the Public

The floor was opened for public comments – two speakers addressed the Board to encourage each body to consider ways to support and invest resources into outdoor recreation; one public comment suggesting alignment between both jurisdictions for joint inspections and plan reviews.

3. For Information

Innovation Corridor Update

Pace Lochte, Assistant VP for Economic Development at UVA, on behalf of the Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development (CVPED) presented a summary of a detailed analysis performed by TEconomy report highlighting economic growth opportunities for the area in both the Biosciences and Defense/National Security fields. Following the presentation, members engaged with several questions.

Commonwealth Bio-accelerator Update

Nikki Hastings, Executive Director of the Cville BioHub provided an update on the Commonwealth BioAccelerator project after year one and previewed the expansion

project and funding gap for phase 2. She detailed the job creation and investment generated by the participating firms and hoped the EDA would continue to support the efforts going forward. Following the presentation, members engaged with several questions.

Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development

Allie Hill from the Piedmont Environmental Council presented a video on supporting outdoor trails and recreation and the benefit not only for the residents but also attracting visitors to the area as well as attracting larger companies to move to Charlottesville for the outdoor attractions. Following the presentation, members engaged with several questions.

4. Adjourn

Mr. Engel thanked both EDA's for their participation in today's joint meeting. CEDA will resume its normal schedule with its October meeting. Chairs Barnhardt and Long both expressed appreciation for the ability to meet jointly once a year to learn and discuss issues of mutual significance. Chair Long adjourned the meeting at 5:29 p.m. The next meeting is on October 20th, 2026.

Teste: _____
Donald Long, Chairman

Approved: _____
Emily Kilroy, Assistant Secretary