

*Chatham County Economic Development Corporation
March 11, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes*

Board Members Present: Joe Glasson, Chris Angus, Jody Minor, George Lucier, Jamie Nunnelly, Jeffrey Starkweather, and Randy Voller

Board Members Absent: Patrick Barnes, Tim Cunnup, Margie Ellison, John Grimes, Larry Hicks, Carolyn Underwood

Non-Voting Members Present: Dianne Reid and Matt Garrett

Staff Present: Jennifer Nelson

Guests Present: Jason Jolley, Ron Newcomb, Brent Lane, Lukas Brun, Allan Freyer, and Howard Stier

Chair Jamie Nunnelly called the meeting to order at 12:05. She asked for introductions and check ins.

Matt Garrett, President of CCCC, spoke about a new program Governor Easley has worked to put into the community college system to encourage career ready workers in North Carolina. Students will receive a Career Readiness Certificate. He briefly explained the program to the board.

Jamie Nunnelly explained to the board of directors the IRS rules regarding political campaigns; because the EDC is a 501(c)(3) organization, we cannot engage in partisan politics.

Chris Angus made a motion to approve the January 8, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded by Joe Glasson and approved.

Treasurer Joe Glasson presented and explained the February Financial Statements. Joe Glasson made a motion to approve the Financial Statements; the motion was seconded by Jody Minor and approved.

Chair Jamie Nunnelly asked for Public Input. No public input.

Old Business

Dianne Reid introduced Jason Jolley to present to Chatham County Strategic Plan draft for board member comments and changes.

Board members made the following comments:

Joe Glasson stated that the board owns the plan and if any board member has any changes please speak now. Randy Voller spoke about the need for buy in by the towns and potential funding from towns. Jody Minor commended Jason Jolley on the plan and agreed with Randy Voller about town buy in. Matt Garrett stated he liked how specific the plan is.

Ron Newcomb stated that the board members/committee members need to go out and be doers. Jeffrey Starkweather thanked Jason Jolley and noted that the EDC and local governments should have the courage to have a plan and stick to it. George Lucier stated he thought it was money well spent and as the parts of the plan develop, the county needs to reach a consensus of how to move forward. Howard Steir asked about what do we want to achieve and he agrees with increasing the staff.

Jamie Nunnelly noted that the next big task will be how we are going to prioritize. Dianne Reid pointed to the vision statement in the draft recommendations and argued that we can become a preferred location for emerging growth companies.

Major Corridors

Jeffrey Starkweather asked what the rationale for the Bear Creek retail center is. Jamie Nunnally asked about a letter currently going out to business owners along the major corridors. George Lucier described the letter, noting that it offers business owners the option of rezoning their property to commercial use, at no cost to the business. The board discussed the major corridors. George Lucier stated the EDC board would not have to send any recommendations back to the Board of Commissioners since it would be sometime in May before they discussed the corridors.

Joe Glasson asked that the Preston Development Group make a presentation to board.

Jeffrey Starkweather made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Chris Angus and approved.