

Development Authority of Lumpkin County Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 2015  
Conference Room, Lumpkin County Administration Building

Board Members in attendance: Jim Curtis, Jim Higdon, John Gaston, J. B. Jones, Adam Emrich, Wyman Walden, Kathy Crafton and JoAnne Taylor present.

Associate Members/Guests in attendance: Steve Gooch, Dee Harris, K C Horne, Jane O’Gorman, Hunter Bicknell, Toby Strofer

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jim Higdon at 9:01 am

Motion to approve agenda: J. B. Jones. Second: JoAnne Taylor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve May 19, 2015 minutes: Jim Curtis. Second: Kathy Crafton. Motion carried.

2014 Audit Report – Rushton & Associates. Clean audit, no issues

Associate Members Reports:

Jane O’Gorman with UNG reported a new 4 year degree in film making. Softball won World Series National Champs. City & County will have event and sign proclamation when students return in fall.

Financial Report – May, 2015. Jason Cox. Nothing unusual noted. In line with budget. Motion to accept: JoAnne Taylor. Second: Kathy Crafton. Motion carried.

Executive Director Steve Gooch reminded everyone the road naming ceremony for the Bill Hardman Hospitality Highway will be June 29<sup>th</sup>.

He reported the Fieldale Building closed. New owner Steve Liebel is working on plans, small brick building in front is for rent. \$300,000 has been allocated for addressing needs in the area including for Calhoun Road.

Steak n Shake is under construction

Chelsea Park had a huge grand opening ceremony. They are employing 30 so far.

There is a prospect looking at the GA 400 property.

The One Georgia Grant for the North Georgia Network equipment closed without issue.

Refrigiwear is still growing and hiring.

Unemployment continues to drop.

Arcadia project update – change order - Executive director Steve Gooch noted the soil report have necessitated a change order. Charles Trammell verified the validity of the change and the costs.

Hunter Bicknell BMK Contracting reported progress was a little slower than they wanted due to design issues with Arcadia's decisions. Grading in process, parking drains, curbing and first coat of asphalt done in next few days. He noted the change order for \$12,900 due to soils is for the parking and drive areas. There will be another change order for back of the loading docks and the pad for the truck court due to soil issues. The excess dirt will be disposed of on site. Septic and drain field are in place.

Motion to approve change order: J. B. Jones. Second: Wyman Walden. Motion carried.

Steve noted Arcadia has moved into the Pet Goods building temporarily.

JoAnne Taylor reported an effort is being made to designate North Georgia an American Viticulture Area. She noted Rope Roberts is pursuing a grant to cover some of the costs. Steve stated the Chamber is taking the lead on the project but it shouldn't be a very costly effort and we should certainly support it.

Kathy Crafton reported on the Community Visioning Project. She stated they had received two responses to the RFP. Carl Vinson Institute and Roberts & Co. She reported that JoAnne Taylor attended bid reviewing in her absence. Kathy reported the Roberts & Co was the low bidder but was a more ambitious plan with fewer deliverables. JoAnne noted she wrote a memo to Amy to ask her to send some questions to both respondents.

Jane O'Gorman asked if there was a component in the plans to get local community buy in. JoAnne answered the plans primarily left the steering committee to create focus groups. The plans relied heavily on internet and social media as a means to engage community which would not be effective in our community.

Guest Toby Strofer commented that in researching the business license records in the Planning Dept the trend has been for fewer small businesses to renew their license. He stated the Development Authority should reach out quarterly to the small businesses to let them know they are important. Steve noted we have started the process of creating a simple newsletter and contact list for that purpose.

Motion to adjourn: J. B. Jones. Second: JoAnne Taylor. Meeting adjourned at 10:47am.

---

Approved