

April 16, 2024

Redevelopment Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting came to order at 4:37pm.

Members present: Keown, Stilwell, Loderick

Minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously. Loderick made the motion and seconded by Stilwell.

Discussion with John O'Toole and Greg Shelton with the BCEC. Handout attached.

O'Toole discussed the Town's participation on the board via Shelton and Mayor Phillips. He mentioned the spirit of collaboration across the County. He discussed the origination of BCEC back in 2017.

He also mentioned the membership costs associated with the munis. The board's original mission was manufacturing-centric, but the second generation of the board has moved toward a more diverse narrative as to the needs of each municipality. O'Toole referenced the handout regarding the productivity.

BCEC recognizes that the environment is the most important component, and they have not experienced any conservation opposition. It is built into the mission statement of the organization.

Port Royal numbers seem small, but the focus was regional, so regardless of job location it benefited Port Royal. He spoke of the projects in Port Royal, StoneWorks, Perrin Woodworking, and Shell Ring Brewery.

He discussed some potential projects, in particular Project Crab. That led to some potential Dutch investment in the seafood industry.

Could they do more in Port Royal? We need to ask. What are the pressures in Port Royal? What do we want? It has to be right-sized, balanced.

Countywide Land Acquisitions - potential funding by the County on purchases.

Naval Hospital - making sure Port Royal is well represented in the eventual transition of the hospital property. Sent off renditions to the Secretary of the Navy about the potential redevelopment of the property. Asking for a visit to discuss the hospital, either here or in Washington, D.C.

Ribaut Road - can assist with leads on businesses that you would like to see along the gateway.

Safe Harbor - interested in participating to assist moving forward.

Discussed the current targets(see handout), as well as the work they do on recruitment, retention, and expansion.

Extensive discussion on Ribaut Road and how to entice development. Will work with Clemson to address the economic impact of trails.

We have the ability to create our vision for what the Town wants.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.