

**MINUTES**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK**  
**Wednesday, June 6th, 2018**  
**Department of Development**  
**999 Waterside Drive, Suite 2430**  
**Norfolk, VA 23510**

Present:

Directors

Robert E. Garris, Jr. - Presiding  
Michael Lee  
Jeffrey Brooke  
Jaeson Dandalides  
Richard Ottinger  
Antonio Sisco

Counsel

Barry Hunter -- Kaufman & Canoles

Staff

Chuck Rigney -- Executive Director  
Sean Washington -- Secretary-Treasurer  
Dawn Ryan -- Assistant Secretary-Treasurer  
Christine Garczynski -- Director of Finance

Guests

Dawn Best -- Froehling & Robertson, Inc.  
Patrick Lane - Froehling & Robertson, Inc.  
Dan Shelton -- Whiting-Turner  
Scott Gloff -- Whiting-Turner  
Catherine King -- Whiting-Turner  
Robert Watson -- Send-It Climbing Gym  
Joel Rubin -- Rubin Communications  
Mel Price -- WPA  
Cheryl White -- Elizabeth River Trail

Absent

Kim Brown  
B. Wayne Coleman  
Michael Cox  
W. Craig Reilly  
Ursula Rhodes

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairman Garris called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. and welcomed staff, guests and presenters to the meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Chairman introduced Ms. Mel Price and Ms. Cheryl White, both representing the Elizabeth River Trail. Jeff Brooke arrived at 7:36 am and Christine Garczynski arrived 7:40 am. The following is a summary of their presentation. Elizabeth River Trail (ERT) stretches 10.5 miles along Norfolk's iconic waterfront. Starting at the campus of Norfolk State University and extending to the Port of Virginia property. This trail connects institutions, major employers and economic generators and winds through 28 different neighborhoods. The mission of ERT is to create the most iconic urban riverfront trail in the country. There are a few of these types of trails along the East coast stretching from Ohio to Georgia. The closest to Norfolk is in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. North Carolina has invested in \$6.7 million of bicycle infrastructure over 10 years and it has created \$60 million a year in economic activity, a 9-1 return every year. ERT plans to add trailheads (11 to 13), keep the trail close to the Elizabeth River, have 5 kayak launches, add art, and insure the trail is protected. Phases include Chelsea Meadow, Berkley Bridge Underlook and Harbor Park. The City of Norfolk currently maintains the trail pursuant to a MOU, with different departments being responsible for different amenities. ERT is working on an app for phones and planning specific locations along the trail for shade structures, recycle and trash cans, and charging stations. The trail heads will include mile markers. (Attachment #1)

Chairman Garris asked Mr. Rigney to give an update on the progress of the Send It - Rock Climbing Gym property sale. Mr. Rigney asked Mr. Watson to give a brief description to update the Board on how the gym will be set up. Mr. Watson presented the following details. The gym will be

approximately 8,000 sq. ft. with three climbing walls of 40-43 feet high for about 12,000 sq. ft. of vertical climbing space. They plan to work with recreation centers in the area for kids workshops and outreach programs. Send-It – Climbing will offer membership fees, daily use fees and military discounts.

At the Chairman's request, Mr. Rigney gave a breakdown of the six performance based grants that are passed through the EDA and the City with a cooperation agreement. Performance based grants are calculated based off the sales generated at year end. The active grants are for Urban Outfitters, ADP, The Main, Premium Outlet Mall and two newest that have not yet generated complete yearly sales - the Glass Light Hotel and IKEA which are not yet open.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Washington was asked to recap the FY-09 budget. He noted that \$1,000 was added to support high speed rail. He also indicated that some of the proceeds from the closing of the sale of property to Send It- Climbing Gym at Central Business Park would go towards updating the landscaping in the park which was in need of a major upgrade.

Chairman Garris asked the Board to review the changes made to the budget as discussed. Upon a motion by Mr. Lee and seconded by Mr. Sisco, the FY-09 budget was approved by a vote of 6-0-0. (Attachment #2)

Mr. Lee and Mr. Coleman gave the Board a brief description of the outcome from the May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 special meeting to discuss the Norfolk Public Schools and what the EDA could do to assist them. The main focus was to have a summit at which school representatives could make a presentation to businesses, explaining the schools' needs and how the businesses could expand on what is already being done. Overall, it was suggested that collective groups within the business community could increase mentoring programs and have volunteers from their businesses for reading programs. Mr. Lee explained

that Dr. Birdsong and Dr. Boone would be attending the next meeting to give a presentation for a better understanding of the process that a business can follow to help the Norfolk Public Schools.

### MINUTES

Chairman Garris asked the Board to review the minutes for the May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 meeting. Hearing no questions or adjustments, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Upon a motion by Mr. Lee and seconded by Mr. Sisco, the minutes of the May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 meeting of the Authority were approved by a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Ottinger abstaining.

Chairman Garris asked the Board to review the minutes of May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Hearing no questions or adjustments, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Upon a motion by Mr. Lee and seconded by Mr. Ottinger, the minutes of the special May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting of the Authority were approved by a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Dandalides abstaining.

### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Approved by Orlet E. Garris, Jr

- Attachments: 1. Elizabeth River Trail  
2. FY-2019 Approved Budget