



**November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Golden Isles Development Authority (GIDA) Board Room**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

CHRISTY JORDAN  
BILL DAWSON  
DAREN PIETSCH  
RICHARD NIXON  
GREER ANDERSON

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

RYAN MOORE, STAFF  
SHERRI PRUITT, STAFF  
MCKENZIE PADGETT, STAFF  
JOAN HEARN, STAFF  
REES SUMERFORD, COUNSEL  
BILL FALLON, GLYNN COUNTY  
WAYNE NEAL, GLYNN COUNTY  
RALPH STAFFIN, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
ROB BURR, GCAC  
BRIAN WEESE, GICCA  
JULIE MARTIN, CITY  
DAMON WITLOW, WINGS OF GRACE  
LAUREN SOBALA, GOLDEN ISLES MATTRESS  
PAM SHIERLING, ISLANDER NEWS

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Christy Jordan called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**INVOCATION**

Vice Chairman Bill Dawson gave an invocation and Chairman Christy Jordan led Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ACCEPT AGENDA**

A MOTION was made by Greer Anderson, seconded by Daren Pietsch, and passed unanimously to accept the agenda as presented. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5-0.

## **WELCOME & RECOGNIZE GUESTS**

Chairman Christy Jordan welcomed guests.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Christy Jordan invited public comments.

## **CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

No items to discuss

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Share the Future (STF) Grant Consideration***

Sherry Pruitt gave an update of the Share the Future projects, and the Authority recommends awarding the following applications:

### **Bragg Avionics - \$15,000 for Innovating**

A MOTION was made by Bill Dawson, seconded by Darren Pietsch, and passed unanimously to approve the Share the Future for Bragg Avionics as presented. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5-0.

The other applicants were invited to reapply in the next fiscal year. This concludes the allocation of the Share the Future funds for the current fiscal year.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A MOTION was made by Daren Pietsch and seconded by Greer Anderson to approve the October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Minutes as presented. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5-0.

## **FINANCIALS**

### ***Approve September Financials***

Joan Hearn reviewed the financials with the board noting that the Authority's main activity was the three Share the Future grants.

A MOTION was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Daren Pietsch and to approve the September financials as presented. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5-0.

## **UPDATES**

### **PRESIDENT'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

#### ***OKR Update***

*Ryan Moore presented the quarterly update, explaining that it covered four months instead of the usual three, due to the significant amount of activity over the past few months.*

#### ***NEW BUSINESS ATTRACTION***

##### ***Project Update***

McKenzie Padgett reported that site visits continue to come in steadily, with advanced manufacturing consistently generating the most inquiries.

##### ***GEDA Project Manager Event***

McKenzie Padgett reported that the GEDA Project Manager Event had a strong turnout and provided excellent networking opportunities.

##### ***Annie Gregson Conference***

McKenzie Padgett covered the Annie Gregson Conference for Women in Economics, which took place this year in Nashville, TN. The event offered valuable networking opportunities and connections with site consultants.

##### ***RSM***

McKenzie Padgett reported that this year's RSM event is branded, with 21 site consultants and project managers in attendance. More to come.

### ***EXISTING INDUSTRIES***

#### ***GDEcD Tour Visit***

Sherri Pruitt provided an update on the upcoming tour with Dorie Bacon, Sr. Project Manager at GDEcD, Malissa Mackay, Sr. Industry Engagement Manager at GDEcD, and Jason Coley, Economic Manager at Georgia Power. Sherri also highlighted Dorie Bacon's significant contributions in helping to make GIDA a "highlight" of our region. More to come.

#### ***Manufacturing Industry Appreciation Event***

Sherri Pruitt provided an update on the third annual Manufacturing Appreciation Event at Silver Bluff Brewery, which saw strong attendance and a great mix of industry professionals, board members, and community leaders. The event honored several outstanding industries in the community, as well as present the prestigious Dave Smith Award. The award recipients were as follows:

**Manufacturer of the Year** – King and Prince Seafood

**Innovation Excellence** – Wallenius Welhelmsen

**Locally Grown Manufacturer of the Year** – One Love Organics  
**Dave Smith Award** – Julie Martin

**WORKFORCE**

***Connect Glynn Externship***

Ryan Moore reported that the Connect Glynn Externship is in its fourth year. Ralph Staffins from the Chamber shared that 120 educators are now participating.

***KGR – Coffee and Connections***

McKenzie Padgett reported that the Chamber's Coffee & Connections event took place at GICCA, with a strong turnout of students showcasing their booths.

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

***VIA Event***

Sherri Pruitt reported that the VIA Event was hosted at Biron Tea, with a great turnout of women entrepreneurs. Andi Biron presented valuable insights to the group.

***Children's Business Fair***

Sherri Pruitt reported on the winners of the Children's Business Fair, highlighting that over 60 young entrepreneurs participated. She noted that selecting the winners was the most difficult part of the event. The winners were:

- Most Original Business Idea: Hala Kobaisy | Hala's Beauty Box
- Most Original Business Idea: Izzy Nathan Cassiano | Flores con Izzy
- Best Presentation: Addy Thompson | Adelines Caramels
- Best Presentation: Sophie LeGoullon | Sophelia's
- Highest Business Potential: Bryce and Moses Vasquez | Butter Bros
- Highest Business Potential: Keira James | KZ Creations

***Accelor8 Ecosystem Panel***

Ryan Moore reported on the Accdelor8 Ecosystem Panel, where he served as a panelist during the forum.

**MARKETING**

***Marketing Update***

*McKenzie Padgett gave a presentation of social media updates for the month of September and October.*

### ***Teacher of the Year***

Sherri Pruitt reported that the Authority, in partnership with the Glynn County School System and Georgia Power, hosted the annual Teacher of the Year event. Each school nominated one teacher, and the Teacher of the Year received a special gift in recognition of their exceptional contributions. Laura Bersticker from GICCA was the winner and will advance to the state award event.

### ***Community Leader Round Table***

Sherri Pruitt reported that GIDA hosted the quarterly Community Leader Round Table at Old City Hall, with Mathew Hill serving as the host. The event consistently draws great attendance, offering valuable insights from community leaders on developments within their organizations.

### ***Chambers State of the Community Event***

Ryan Moore reported that the State of the Community Event, hosted by the Chamber, had strong attendance and provided valuable information. Bill Fallon expressed appreciation to the City and County for sharing their story and vision, highlighting the unity between the two in moving forward with their goals.

### ***Chamber Board Meeting Presentation***

Ryan Moore attended the Chamber Board Meeting and provided updates on the Authority to their board.

### ***Reynolds Cottages Groundbreaking***

Ryan Moore reported on the groundbreaking of Reynold Cottages, developed by Forward Brunswick, with a focus on workforce and affordable housing.

### ***Brunswick News Business Feature***

McKenzie Padgett reported that Brown Butter Shop was featured in the quarterly business highlight of Brunswick News.

### ***Georgia Trend Top 200***

McKenzie Padgett reported that several community leaders from Glynn County were featured in Georgia Trend, including Ryan Moore from GIDA, Ralph Staffins from the Chamber, Mathew Hill from Downtown Development, and Lonnie Roberts from Coastal College.

### ***Board Member Highlight***

McKenzie Padgett reported on upcoming board member highlights, with more to come.

## **SITE DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Property Update***

Ryan Moore reported on several property updates, noting that all properties will be GRAD certified by the end of the year. The new infrastructure grant program will be available starting October 11th, and the Authority plans to apply for the grant to improve the entrance at the Breakbulk site. More to come.

## **GCAC**

### **Informational Items:**

Rob Burr provided a Year-to-Date review to the board and reminded everyone that Brunswick will transition to three daily flights starting in October. Rob Burr also reported that one board member's term is expiring, with two candidates having applied for the position. More to come.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

- GIDA Board Meeting – Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at 9am at 209 Gloucester Street, Suite 211, Brunswick, GA 31520

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session - Real Estate OCGA Section §50-14-3(b)(1)(B)

Closed Session – Pending or Potential Litigation OCGA Section §50-14-2

Personnel OCGA Section §50-14-2 (b)(2)

A **MOTION** was made by Daren Pietsch and seconded by Bill Dawson to enter into Closed Session to discuss Real Estate, Pending or Potential Litigation, Personnel. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

A **MOTION** was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Daren Pietsch to return to Open Session. The **MOTION** carried unanimously: 5-0.

# **Returned to Open Session**

A MOTION was made by Greer Anderson and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve County/City Bylaw participation as presented. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5:0.

A MOTION was made by Richard Nixon and seconded by Daren Pietsch to approve \$52,000 Scope of Work for services agreement for economic impact analysis and authorized the Authority to speak to legislative council as presented. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5:0.

**ADJOURN**

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Richard Nixon and seconded by Bill Dawson. The MOTION carried unanimously: 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

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*Chairman Christy Jordan*

*Attest:*

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*Sherri Pruitt*  
*Director of BR&E / Golden Isles Development Authority*