

TOWN OF BLUFFTON DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Live at The HUB – 7 Venture Dr, #100

October 12, 2023 Board Meeting

Board Members Present:	Bernie Traywick, Director; Edward Taylor – Director; Kevin Ryan, Director; Jim Biggs, Director; Deborah Edmondson, Director; Michael Czymbor, Director; Latoya Salters, Director
Board Members Absent:	Berl Davis, Chair – Director; Walter Nester, Director; Matt Green, Vice Chair – Director; Lisa Sulka, Town of Bluffton Mayor
Ex-Officio Present:	Rod Casavant, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member; Tom Henz, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member;
Ex-Officio Absent:	John O’Toole, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member; Lindsey Mueller, Ex- Officio Non-Voting Member; Houssam Aboukhater, Ex-Officio Non- Voting Member; Chris Trott, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member
Town Staff Present:	Kristin Ling, DRCI Marketing and Operations Manager; Paul Arvantides, DRCI VP of Innovation; Natalie Major, Treasurer; Chris Forster, Asst. Town Manager
Town Council Present:	N/A
Public Present:	No members of the public were present

I. CALL TO ORDER

Biggs called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

II. Notice regarding posting of meeting per South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

III. ROLL CALL

Nelems took roll call and confirmed that a quorum was present.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Czymbor approved the Don Ryan Center for Innovation (DRCI) Board of Directors Meeting Agenda as presented.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 8, 2023

Biggs made a motion to approve the June 8, 2023 minutes. Edmondson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the June 8, 2023 minutes were approved.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Every member of the public who is recognized to speak shall address the Chairman and in speaking, avoid disrespect to the Board, Town Staff, and other members of the meeting. State your name and address when speaking for the record. **COMMENTS ARE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES.**

There were no Public Comments.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Henz let the board know that there will be a luncheon hosted by the Hilton Island Bluffton Chamber, which would feature a roundtable discussion on economic development and encouraged board members to attend.

IX. TREASURER'S REPORT

Majorkiewicz presented the financial report for the first two months of fiscal year '24, noting that the DRCI was within budget and had shown revenues over expenditures.

X. NEW BUSINESS

The Strategic Plan for 2024-2026 was presented, including new projects like The Hive and a focus on spurring local entrepreneurship and innovation, attracting new businesses and employers to Bluffton, enhancing partnerships, deepening and enhancing operational capabilities and DRCI Grant Program.

XI. OPEN DISCUSSION

Forster commented on all the activity in the town of Bluffton and the DRCI around economic development. Ryan inquired about identifying funding sources for DRCI businesses and Arvantides spoke about our recent relationship with the SBAC.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Czymbor made a motion to adjourn the Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors meeting. Biggs seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.