

Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors Meeting

The Don Ryan Center for Innovation, 7 Venture Drive, Suite #100, Bluffton, SC

July 10, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Berl Davis at 5:06

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chair Berl Davis

Director Jim Biggs

Director Bernie Traywick

Director Kevin Ryan

Director Walter Nester

Ex-Officio John O'Toole

Ex-Officio Rod Casavant

Ex-Officio Chris Trott

Ex-Officio Houssam Aboukhater

Ex-Officio Tom Henz

Ex-Officio Natalie Majorkiewicz

Ex-Officio Lisa Sulka

DRCI Staff Paul Arvantides

DRCI Staff Kristin Ling

DRCI Staff David Nelems

ABSENT

Vice Chair Matt Green

Director Latoya Salters

Director Larry Toomer

Director Josh Gruber

Director Latoya Salters

Ex-Officio Bridgette Frazier

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APRIL 10, 2025

The minutes from the April 10, 2025 meeting were approved.

Motion made by Director Biggs, Seconded by Director Nester.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

V. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD

The Board recognized the service of outgoing members Berl Davis, Matt Green, and Bernie Traywick for completing their terms.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that revenues exceeded budget, expenditures were under budget, and a year-end surplus.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

-The Board voted to recommend the appointment of Houssam Aboukhater, Kerry Murphy, Jerry Reeves, and Ashley Feaster to the Town Council. The Board also voted to recommend Bernie Traywick as an ex officio member.

Motion made by Director Nester, Seconded by Director Biggs.

-Bylaws: The Board approved creating a non-voting Don Ryan seat to honor the Ryan family's contributions.

Motion made by Director Nester, Seconded by Director Biggs.

VIII. STAFF REPORT

The CEO provided updates on:

- Strategic planning and upcoming facility development, including The Cove at Buckwalter.
- Current programs (Startup, Trade, Growth, Thrive, Heroes) and new initiatives in development.
- Ongoing partnerships, including with Hardeeville and Beaufort County Economic Development.
- Continued support and recognition for mentors serving Don Ryan Center companies.

IX. DISCUSSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:08

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025