

**TOWN OF BLUFFTON DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Live at The HUB – 7 Venture Dr, #100

April 20, 2023 Board Meeting

Board Members Present:	Matt Green, Vice Chair – Director; Lisa Sulka, Town of Bluffton Mayor; Walter Nester, Director; Bernie Traywick, Director; Edward Taylor – Director; Kevin Ryan, Director; Deborah Edmondson, Director
Board Members Absent:	Berl Davis, Chair – Director; Jim Biggs, Director; Michael Cyzmbor, Director
Ex-Officio Present:	Lindsey Mueller, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member; John O’Toole, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member;
Ex-Officio Absent:	Larry Toomer Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member; Rod Casavant, Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member
Town Staff Present:	Kristin Ling, DRCI Marketing and Operations Manager; Paul Arvantides, DRCI VP of Innovation; Kimberly Roache, DRCI Innovation Manager; 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

Green called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

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

III. ROLL CALL

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 9, 2023

Taylor made a motion to approve the February 9, 2023 minutes. Sulka seconded the motion. All were in favor and the February 9, 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

Taylor asked for an update from last meeting on the 2 potential GROWTH Program customers that expressed difficulty affording the GROWTH Program. Arvantides reported that DRCl is currently working with one of those customers.

IX. TREASURER'S REPORT

Majorkiewicz displayed the revenues and expenses through February. Marjorkiewicz noted you see the second round of ARPA Grant funds. Forster provided background on the ARPA Grant funds.

Ryan inquired about the HEROES Program. Ling gave an update on the active HEROES program customers.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Marjorkiewicz presented the 990 draft and the board reviewed it and made recommendations to add the mentors as volunteers on the form. Sulka made the motion to accept the additions requested on the 990. Taylor Seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

The proposed FY24 proposed budget was then presented and the support from the town and ARPA funds were noted. No new programs are proposed and expenditures remain similar to this fiscal year. Taylor made the motion to recommend the proposed budget to town council. Sulka seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Arvantides gave an update on:

1. Personnel Matters Regarding Town Council Appointments of Boards, Committees, and Commissions. (Pursuant to Freedom of Information Act 30-4-70 [a][1]). Sulka made a motion to recommend that Town Council reappoint the following to serve an additional term on the Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors: Michael Czymbor, Edward Taylor, Kevin Ryan and Walter Nester. Edmondson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
2. Per By-Laws of the Don Ryan Center for Innovation (Section 4.5). Sulka made the motion to nominate the following to serve as Ex-Officio members of the Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors: John O'Toole and Rod Casavant. Taylor seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
3. Personnel Matters Regarding Town Council Appointments of Boards, Committees, and Commissions. (Pursuant to Freedom of Information Act 30-4-70 [a][1]) Sulka made a motion to

recommend that Town Council appoint Latoya Salters to serve on the Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors. Taylor seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

4. Per By-Laws of the Don Ryan Center for Innovation (Section 4.5). Sulka made a motion to have 3 Ex-Officio nominated to serve as Ex-Officio members of the Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors and for the by-laws to be amended to have up to 10 Ex-Officio Members. The Following members were nominated to serve as Ex-Officio members of the Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors: Houssam Aboukhater, Tom Henz and Chris Trott. Nester seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

XI. CEO REPORT

Arvantides gave a general update on the DRCI. The use of the The HUB by partners, mentors, and of course, Program Companies is growing, partnerships are strong, new events and programs have been enthusiastically received. DRCI is functioning efficiently; providing valuable services to everyone we interact with and awareness of the DRCI is growing and our reputation is positive.

XII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Nester spoke about a company that was giving a touching presentation about Veterans and it turns out that they are working with DRCI and he was very impressed.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Green made a motion to adjourn the Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors meeting. Nester seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:16. p.m.