

Business Development and Workforce Taskforce Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 13, 2024

Meeting Time: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: Bobby Snipes Water Resource Center – Presentation Room

YouTube Link: <https://youtube.com/live/1RzXE9qKOe8?feature=share>

Present Taskforce Members:

Commissioner Carol Myers
Commissioner Tiffany Taylor
Ilka McConnell
Dodd Ferrelle
Matthew Epperson
Tim Johnson
Marvin Nunnally
Wesley Mellina
Broderick Flanigan

Facilitator:

Kara Fresk

Absent Taskforce Members:

David Bradley
Sally Kimel-Sheppard
Michele Pearson Tucker
Shane Blackwell

Guest & Staff:

Kenshundria Bailey-Allen

Meeting Notes

- I. Approve May 13, 2024 Agenda
 - Wesley Mellina motioned
 - 2nd Ilka McConnell
 - Unanimous motion to approve.
- II. Approve April 29, 2024 meeting minutes
 - Ilka motioned with the addition of board notes.
 - 2nd Commissioner Tiffany Taylor
 - Unanimous motion to approve.
- III. Facilitator, Kara Fresk covered issues/needs/gaps from one-on-one taskforce member interviews.
- IV. Taskforce members covered the ARPA charge and the allocated funds associated.
- V. Sub-Committee Work
 - Brainstorming Review
 - Initial Goal & Problem Identification
 - Additional Input
 - Workplan
- VI. Sub-Committee Debriefs

- **Worker Empowerment Sub-Committee** discussed the importance of providing benefits such as:

- Benefits (ex. Onsite childcare OR childcare assistance).
- Industries offering education and knowledge of employee rights.
 - (ex. On-site compliance person to check the accuracy of health benefits and wages)
- The importance of building confidence in worker's abilities to understand their rights.
- Organizing for Better Working Conditions
- Pamphlets/Resource Guides

- **High Wage Employment Sub-Committee** discussed:

- Preparing Athens residents for the jobs that we already have.
- Talk to employers about skills needed to perform job duties.
- Raise awareness at community events and through the media.
- Increase skills and access to short term trainings.
 - Identify training organizations
 - Ex. Welding & Advanced Manufacturing.

- **Small Business Development Sub-Committee** discussed

- Expanding the Revolving Loan Fund
- Self-Sustaining Businesses
 - Creating sustainable jobs
- Youth Development/Senior Development
 - Startup assistance
- Identifying partnership programs to focus training opportunities to the community (Ex. Chess & Community, Boys & Girls Club, ACCA, Athens Technical College, Economic Justice Coalition).
- Green Jobs
 - Inflation reduction act as an incentive.

VII. Facilitator Kara Fresk, covered perspective notes with updates.

VIII. Adjourn

Facilitator, Kara Fresk proposed to adjourn the meeting.

- Commissioner Tiffany Taylor motioned.
- 2nd Ilka McConnell.
- Unanimous motion to approve.

TIMELINE:

Task Force Meetings – *updated as of 4/26/2024*

- May 20 – Sub-Committee Working Meeting
- June 3 – Sub-Committee Working Meeting
- June 10 – Full Task Force Meeting – Sub-Committee Presentations
- June 17 – Full Task Force Meeting – Prioritizing

Recommendation to Mayor & Commission – *updated as of 4/26/2024*

- June 26 – Report Due
- July 9 – Mayor & Commission Work Session
- July 16 – Mayor & Commission Agenda-Setting Session
- August 6 – Mayor & Commission Voting Session

Next Taskforce Meeting:

May 20, 2024 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM Bobby Snipes Water Resource Center Presentation Room