



DRIVE Board Meeting Minutes
March 3rd, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Knorr, Dean Girton, Lance Diehl, Trevor Finn, Joe Kantz, Susan McGarry, Dave Park, Jeff Reber, Jeb Stotter, Sam Schiccatano, Leslie Temple, Chris Young, Jennifer Wakeman (Executive Director)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Cole, Al Neuner

GUESTS PRESENT: Lauren Bryson (Focus Central PA) Bob Snyder, Harry Mathias, Bill Risse (Conxx), Tim Hippensteel (Project Manager), Betsy Reichenbach (Business Outreach Manager), Aidan McDonald (Facilities Manager).

Jeb Stotter announced that an executive session and was held prior to the meeting. No actions or votes were taken.

MINUTES:

- February 3rd 2021 Board Meeting: Motion by Dean Girton to accept the February 3rd minutes, Lance Diehl seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

Focus Central PA Update

Lauren Bryson, Executive Director of Focus Central PA, was invited to present to the DRIVE board. Focus's mission is to attract investment that cultivates economic growth for central Pennsylvania, primarily through business attraction and marketing of available commercial and industrial sites. Focus serves Centre and Mifflin counties in addition to DRIVE's five member counties.

Lauren Bryson reported that despite the pandemic FOCUS had a busy year in 2020, with 15 site visits. In 2021 that pace has continued with 7 site visits already completed. Interest in the area has been from a diverse grouping of industry sectors. Focus operates a website with an integrated property database for site selection assistance.

Focus has partnered with CPWDC on a livability multimedia marketing campaign for the region, aimed at attracting employers based on the benefits of the region as a great place to live to aid in workforce attraction.

Later this spring, Focus is hosting a live virtual Industrial Development Forum on Tuesday June 22nd featuring keynote speakers and discussion about it takes to attract and support quality industrial investment projects. Lauren Bryson invited the DRIVE board members to attend.

Broadband Committee

Bill Risse, of ConxxNE, presented a progress report to the board as a representative of the contractor for the broadband network expansion project.

Bill Risse reported Conxx is working on optimizing various radio links and will be conducting RF testing within a week. Conxx will begin getting some test customers up and running soon. Conxx experienced weather related difficulties throughout February, but anticipates things picking up speed as we move into warmer weather. Conxx was able to add several employees for the remainder of the build. Service across most of the network will be available to customers by Memorial Day.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jennifer Wakeman presented the Treasurer's Report.

The Finance committee met last week. Currently DRIVE has four checking accounts, in discussion with the finance committee we determined it makes sense to close the property account and multimodal account. The committee met with representatives of First Columbia to discuss the investment account.

The multimodal project has been closed out with the state, with the exception to waiting on the final MTF reimbursement. Once we receive the final reimbursement, the funds will be deposited into brokerage account.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Dave Park, seconded by Leslie Temple; carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Jennifer Wakeman presented a brief update to the board regarding the status of some current projects. Aidan McDonald reported Bognet, Inc. will begin work for the office renovation project within the next two weeks, with work likely to be completed within five weeks of the start of construction.

Property Committee

The property committee made a recommendation that the board approve a twelve month lease for \$5,400 per year for viaEdTechnologies dba MYNDDSET Virtual Event Services to lease space in the DRIVE Professional Building. While DRIVE would normally require a longer term lease, the committee agreed to a shorter term since the tenant is offering to improve the space.

Motion to approve a one year lease for viaEdTechnologies dba MYNDDSET Virtual Event Services for \$5,400 per year made by Trevor Finn, seconded by Jeff Reber; carried unanimously.

New Business

Jeb Stotter said the DRIVE board has a formal obligation to recognize the resignation of DRIVE Chair Denny Hummer from the board. He asked for a motion to accept the resignation.

Motion to accept the resignation of Denny Hummer made by Joe Kantz, seconded by Dean Girton; carried unanimously.

Joe Kantz and Dean Girton added that the we should recognize Denny in some way for his dedicated service to DRIVE.

The board briefly discussed DRIVE getting its own Zoom account to better facilitate meetings.

Motion for DRIVE to purchase its own Zoom account at a price not to exceed \$200 per year made by Joe Kantz, seconded by Dave Park; carried unanimously.

At 9:16 am, Dean Girton made a motion to adjourn.

NEXT MEETING: The DRIVE Board meets again on April 7th, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dean Girton, Secretary