

Business Development and Workforce Taskforce Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 10, 2024

Meeting Time: 12:39 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: Bobby Snipes Water Resource Center – Presentation Room

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/FIXCDQLSiZ8?feature=share>

Present Taskforce Members:

Commissioner Carol Myers
Commissioner Tiffany Taylor
Ilka McConnell
Matthew Epperson
Tim Johnson
Broderick Flanigan
David Bradley

Facilitator:

Kara Fresk

Guest & Staff:

Kenshundria Bailey-Allen
Alejandra Calva
Joel Izlar
Tamika Money

Absent Taskforce Members:

Michele Pearson Tucker
Shane Blackwell
Dodd Ferrelle
Wesley Mellina
Marvin Nunnally
Sally Kimel-Sheppard

Meeting Notes:

- I. Approve Agenda
 - David Bradley motioned
 - 2nd Ilka McConnell
 - Unanimous motion to approve.
- II. Approve 5/20/2024 meeting minutes.
 - David Bradley motioned
 - 2nd Commissioner Tiffany Taylor
 - Unanimous motion to approve.
- III. Approve 06/03/2024 meeting minutes.
 - Ilka McConnell motioned
 - 2nd Commissioner Carol Myers
 - Unanimous motion to approve.
- IV. Sub-Committee Presentations
 - **Small Business Development**
 - i. Expanding access to capital for “impact businesses” using ARPA dollars.
 1. Expanding the existing revolving loan fund, and creating a new impact business grant program.
 - ii. Business succession through employee ownership (EO) training program (including transition knowledge, as well as knowledge about accessing capital for transitioning
 - iii. Business purchasing and marketing co-op outreach and training program, with special preference for minority, women, veteran and other special certification owned businesses.
 - iv. Safe and stable childcare for all ACC Citizens in the workforce.
 1. Reached out to multiple childcare organizations and asked what to do with one time funding – response was consistently infrastructure development and professional development.
 2. Loan or grant program for childcare facilities

- a. Addresses childcare quality rather than individuals' access to childcare.
- b. Preserves (and in some cases increases) existing childcare spaces.
- c. Includes educating people who want to care for 2-3 children in their homes.

- **High Wage Employment**

- i. Training Program

- 1. Upskilling program for people 18-35 in gap areas
 - a. Could be 18+ and it doesn't have to be capped at 35.
 - b. Essentially for individuals not in high school.

- ii. Raise awareness of high demand/high wage employment opportunities in Athens Youth

- 1. Being addressed through AthensAchieves!

- iii. Local job seekers informed about high demand job opportunities and support to land positions

- 1. Being addressed through AthensAchieves!

- **Worker Empowerment**

- i. Empowered Local Workforce

- 1. Education for Youth, Adults and non-profits.
 - a. Multiple points of contact for full education.
 - b. Opportunity to collaborate with ACC industrial complex committee.

- 2. Better working conditions, increase knowledge of Worker Labor Rights.

- ii. Increase local worker/apprentice opportunity in local taxpayer-funded capital project construction projects (ex. TADs, SPLOST, TSPLOST)

- a. Increase apprenticeship opportunities
 - i. Expand beyond construction to electrical
 - 1. Electrical feeds into green jobs, higher wages, less physical demand.
 - 2. Construction could encompass electrical, plumbing, etc.

- iii. CBAs for ACC contracted business

- 1. Find out if there will be changes to the procurement process based on the disparity study.

V. Closing

- Facilitator, Kara Fresk informed the taskforce that the June 17 meeting will be for organizing & prioritizing recommendations to present the Mayor and Commission.

VI. Adjourn

- Commissioner Tiffany Taylor motioned
 - 2nd Broderick Flanigan
 - Unanimous vote to approve.

TIMELINE

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

- 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

NOTES: