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Columbia Economic Development Corporation

Meeting Notes
COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
One Hudson City Centre
Suite 301
Hudson, New York

A special meeting of Columbia Economic Development Corporation’s (CEDC) Workforce Development and Education Committee was held in person on February 28, 2023 at 9:30 am.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Ruth Adams	Committee Member	Present via Zoom
Anand Balasar	Committee Member	Absent
Carlee Drummer	Committee Member	Present via Zoom
David Fingar	Committee Member	Present in person
Derek Grout	Committee Member	Absent
Michael Johnston	Committee Member	Absent
Michael Molinski	Committee Member	Present in person
Sean Sawyer	Committee Member	Absent
F. Michael Tucker	President/CEO	Present in person
Andy Howard	Counsel	Present in person
Jessica Gabriel	Senior Economic Developer	Present in person
Martha Lane	Business Development Director	Present in person
Chris Brown	Housing Development Coordinator	Present in person
Stephen Vandenburg	Business Development Specialist	Present in person
Cathy Lyden	Bookkeeper	Present in person
Riley Werner	Administrative Assistant	Present in person
Lisa Drahushuk	Administrative Supervisor	Present in person

With no quorum present, Mr. Fingar called the meeting to order at 9:34am. He asked Ms. Adams begin the discussion.

Ms. Adams stated the discussion would be about the viability of the Committee. She thanked Dr. Drummer for hosting the meeting at Columbia-Greene Community College. She asked for a brief review of the past workings of the Committee. Mr. Tucker stated the committee began as a reaction to issues of employers being unable to find skilled employees. He noted CEDC was working with Questar, the school districts and others involved in the workforce issues. He stated a job fair was done for three years, after which the Career Connects program was begun. He noted meetings continued during Covid, but it was determined that others may be better equipped to handle workforce issues. He felt CEDC needed to be present, but not run the programs.

Mr. Tucker reminded the Committee that Mrs. Gabriel had a seat on the Workforce Investment Board. Dr. Drummer stated the college had a strong connection with the Workforce Investment Board, and could report



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back to CEDC as could Mrs. Gabriel. She wasn't sure the committee had a purpose at this point but felt Chris Nardone was key to the addressing the issues.

Mr. Fingar felt all involved should have a seat at the table, but was unsure who should run it. Mr. Tucker felt CEDC could provide support, but agreed they should not lead. Dr. Drummer suggested that when CEDC was in the community, they could report community needs back to the college. She was unsure if the Committee had a role. Mr. Fingar stated it appeared that Mr. Nardone and his organization would be the appropriate place to run programs, with the other organizations having a seat at the table. Mr. Tucker suggested maintaining the CEDC Committee meetings a few times a year, as well as continue the meetings convened by Chris Nardone. Mr. Tucker felt getting information to Mr. Nardone and Dr. Drummer was important in order to address issues as they appeared. He also suggested a follow-up to the Skilling the Gap event. Ms. Adams suggested holding a Zoom event hearing from all partners in the County annually, to maintain connections. Ms. Adams suggested the Committee should have an identifiable goal for each meeting going forward, as well as identifying what is needed as well as understanding what would be done with the information received.

Mrs. Gabriel asked Dr. Drummer if there was anything CEDC could support or follow up on with Professor Kenny's and his findings. Dr. Drummer stated the items which had been discussed was within the purview of the college. She stated she would contact CEDC if she needed support, noting they have already begun follow up on some items. Mr. Tucker stated the college could provide substantive training, and CEDC could assist with marketing. He felt the partner meetings should continue and CEDC could play a supporting role. Dr. Drummer stated the college would be holding an open house with demonstrations and the buildings and professors available for attendees. Mr. Tucker stated CEDC would assist with the marketing.

Ms. Adams asked if the language of the pillar needed to be changed due to the changing of CEDC's role. Mr. Tucker stated he would keep the pillar and adjust the information, perhaps adding a list of the partners. Ms. Adams agreed the list of partners would be strong statement. Mrs. Gabriel stated she would take the comments and add the objectives under the current pillar.

Ms. Adams noted the Committee needed a permanent chair, noting she wouldn't be able to fill that position. Mr. Tucker stated he would discuss the opening with Mr. Fingar. Dr. Drummer stated she could be available if the meeting schedule was only 2 to 3 meetings a year.

Mr. Tucker stated he was researching a manufacturing program with the Center for Economic Growth, which would include Columbia-Greene Community College. Dr. Drummer stated she would like to get involved in training for the semi-conductor sector but needed background on the needs and requirements.

Mr. Fingar summarized the meeting: CEDC didn't need to lead, the objectives needed to be changed, CEDC should maintain the Committee but meet once or twice a year, to be determined, and rely on Dr. Drummer and, Ms. Gabriel to report on workforce. Mrs. Gabriel stated she will send a draft to the Committee to review the edits then insert into the full Strategic Plan and present to the Full Board on March 28th.

Public Comment:

With no public present and no further comments, Mr. Fingar ended the meeting with no quorum at 9:55am.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Drahusuk