



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

One Hudson City Centre, Suite 301

Hudson, NY 12534

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) Board of Directors was held in person at their office located at One Hudson City Centre, Suite 301, Hudson, NY 12534 on January 28, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by James Calvin, Chair.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived/ Departed
James Calvin	Chair	Present in person	
Richard Cummings	Board Member	Present in person	
Carlee Drummer	Board Member – Ex-Officio	Present in person	
Tarah Gay	Vice - Chair	Present in person	
Justin Goldman	Board Member	Present in person	
Derek Grout	Board Member	Absent	
Christine Hinz	Board Member	Present in person	
Michael Johnston	Board Member	Present in person	
Amanda Karch	Board member – Ex-Officio	Present in person	
Kenneth Leggett	Board Member	Absent	
Rachel Levine	Board Member	Present in person	
Christian Lopez	Board Member	Absent	
Bryan Mahoney	Treasurer	Present in person	
Michael Molinski	Secretary	Present in person	
Richard Nesbitt	Board Member	Absent	
Carmine Pierro	Board Member – Ex Officio	Absent	
Rachel Puckett	Board Member	Present in person	
Sean Sawyer	Board Member	Absent	
Ryan Skoda	Board Member – Ex Officio	Present in person	
Andy Howard	CEDC Attorney	Present in person	
F. Michael Tucker	President/CEO	Present in person	
Chris Brown	Housing Coordinator	Absent	
Martha Lane	Vice President Business Development	Present in person	
Stephen Vandenburg	Business Development Specialist	Present in person	
Alondra Isidro	Project Manager	Present in person	
Cathy Lyden	Bookkeeper	Present in person	
Riley Werner	Administrative Assistant	Present in person	
Lisa Drahushuk	Administrative Supervisor	Present in person	

Call to Order:

Mr. Calvin called the meeting to order at 8:33am.

Dr. Drummer addressed the Board, announcing her retirement from Columbia Greene Community College as of June 30, 2025.

Minutes, December 17, 2024:

Mr. Johnston made a motion, seconded by Ms. Levine to approve the minutes from December 17, 2024. Carried.

2025 Housekeeping Resolution:

Mr. Calvin reviewed the contents of the resolution with the Board. *Mr. Molinski made a motion seconded by Mr. Johnston to approve the 2025 Annual Housekeeping Resolution as presented. Carried.*

Committee Reports:**Governance & Nominating Committee:**

Ms. Levine reviewed the Slate of Officers which were as follows: James Calvin - Chair; Tarah Gay - Vice Chair; Michael Molinski – Secretary; and Bryan Mahoney – Treasurer. *Mr. Johnston made a motion, seconded by Mr. Goldman to elect the proposed Slate of Directors. Carried.*

Loan Committee:**Portfolio Dashboard:**

Ms. Lane stated Loan Client A had made a payment, but remained in arrears. She stated Loan Client B would be on the list until they were able to sell their asset. Loan Client C was in arrears and had been in touch with Ms. Lane. Loan Client D was no longer in arrears, they had brought that account current, and recurring payments had been set up.

Mr. Vandenburg gave a report on the loan funds, noting the information had been shared with the SBA and the Board of Supervisors. *Ms. Puckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Levine to approve the Portfolio Dashboard as presented. Carried.*

Reclaiming Fitness LLC Loan Request:

Ms. Lane stated the Loan Committee had approved a loan earlier in the month, noting the Loan was under the amount that required Full Board approval. She stated the loan was to Reclaiming Fitness LLC a personal training and massage therapy business, located in Catskill. She stated the request was for \$12,000 SBA Microloan with a term of 48 months at a rate of 7.75%. Collateral consisted of a lien on business assets and the personal guarantee of the principal.

Ms. Puckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nesbitt to approve the report as presented. Carried.

President/CEO Report:**Treasurer's Report:**

Mr. Tucker reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the Board. *Mr. Cummings made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnston to approve the report as presented. Carried.*

Columbia County Administrative Services Contract:

Mr. Tucker reviewed the contract noting the County Economic Development Committee had reviewed and recommended it to the Board of Supervisors for their approval at their February meeting. *Mr. Molinski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Levine to approve the contract as presented. Carried.*

CEDC Activities Update:

Mr. Tucker gave an update on Broadband, with Ms. Puckett explaining the issues from the supplier's side. Mr. Tucker gave updates on Housing, noting there were four housing projects coming before the Columbia County and City of Hudson IDAs. He distributed a CEDC year-end report, and a report on the Regional Economic



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Development Awards, noting Columbia County had been awarded 8 projects through the Regional Economic Development Council. He reviewed a sheet outlining the distribution of \$619,000 in New York State Council on the Arts awards to non-profits in Columbia County.

Mr. Tucker distributed a chart outlining the timeline for the Strategic Plan Review to be done with MRB Group. He noted the consultants would be preparing a survey for the Board and would be doing a presentation at the March full Board meeting. He noted there would be a few sessions held with the Board so the Strategic Plan could be presented at the Annual Meeting. Mr. Calvin stated the business at the February meeting would be confined to one half hour to allow time for the consultants to facilitate a Board workshop immediately following the Board meeting. They would then produce a draft plan for the Board to review.

Mr. Calvin discussed the Annual Meeting with the Board, suggesting the Annual Meeting be held at the Caboose. He stated he would discuss cost with the owner if the Board agreed. He asked if the Board had any suggestions for speakers.

Mr. Tucker stated Chris Brown had been recommended as the new representative to the Columbia-Greene Workforce Investment Board, replacing Jessica Gabriel who had resigned due to scheduling conflicts.

Mr. Calvin reminded the Board about the Membership renewal. He thanked those who had already sent in their memberships and urged those who hadn't to do it as soon as possible. He also reminded the members that the organization was also seeking new members. Dr. Drummer announced that Columbia - Greene Community College had been ranked in the top 5 Community Colleges in NYS and the top 9 in the Northeast for cost and satisfaction.

Mr. Calvin reminded the Board members about the February meetings: Loan Committee – February 10th at 8:30am, Governance & Nominating – February 11th at 8:30am and the Full Board meeting on February 25th at 8:30am.

With no further business to be conducted and no public comments, Mr. Cummings made a motion, seconded by Ms. Puckett to adjourn the meeting. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34am.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Drakushuk