



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

Meeting Minutes
COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
GOVERNANCE and NOMINATING COMMITTEE
May 13, 2025
One Hudson City Centre, Suite 301
Hudson, New York

A meeting of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation Governance and Nominating Committee was held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 8:30am for the purpose of hearing any matters that may be presented to the Committee for consideration. The meeting was called to order at 8:30am by Rachel Levine, Chair.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived/Departed
James Calvin	Committee Member	Present in person	
Rick Cummings	Committee Member	Present in person	
Tarah Gay	Committee Member	Present in person	
Christine Hinz	Committee Member	Present in person	
Kenneth Leggett	Committee Member	Absent	
Rachel Levine	Committee Chair	Present in person	
Gary Graziano	Board Candidate	Absent	
F. Michael Tucker	President/CEO	Present in person	
Andy Howard	Counsel	Present in person	
Chris Brown	Housing Development Coordinator	Absent	
Martha Lane	Vice President Business Development	Absent	
Stephen VanDenburgh	Business Development Specialist	Absent	
Lisa Drahushuk	Administrative Supervisor	Present in person	
Cathy Lyden	Bookkeeper	Present in person	
Riley Werner	Administrative Assistant	Present in person	

Consent Agenda:

Minutes February 11, 2025

Mr. Calvin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings to approve the February 11, 2025 minutes as presented. Carried.

Board Candidates:

Mr. Calvin stated Christian Lopez, Michael Molinski and Richard Nesbitt had resigned from the Board. He stated he had no candidates for the open Board seats at the present time and asked the Committee members to forward their candidate suggestions to Ms. Levine.

Mr. Calvin noted that in the past, reducing the number of voting Board members had been discussed. He asked if the Committee felt this would be an appropriate time to implement the idea. He asked their opinion about reducing the number of Board members to 15 non-ex-officio seats, noting that would bring the



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

required quorum to 8 non-ex-officio board members. He noted in the past, several meetings had an attendance of 8 but didn't obtained a full quorum of 9 members present. Mr. Howard stated the by-laws could be amended by the Board Members at the next meeting and presented to the Membership at the 2026 Annual Meeting. *Mr. Calvin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gay recommending the reduction of the total number of voting CEDC Board members to 15 members. Carried.*

Ms. Levine returned to the Board candidate topic, stating a couple of candidates would still need to be found. Mr. Tucker stated the list of Board members with their location and professional experience would be distributed before the next Board meeting. Ms. Gay asked if Mr. Graziano be a good candidate for the Governance & Nominating Committee. Ms. Levine stated they had asked if he would be available for three meetings a month. Mr. Calvin stated he would discuss it with Mr. Graziano.

CEDC Board Secretary Position:

Mr. Calvin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings to nominate Ms. Levine as Board Secretary. Carried.

By-Law Review:

Mr. Howard stated he would clean up the draft by-laws as presented to the full board last month, add the change to the number of Board members and present it to the Board at the May full board meeting for consideration.

Other Business:

Mr. Tucker stated CEDC had been awarded \$1,000,000 in SBA funding. He stated there had been no word yet on the amount of a grant would be associated with the loan. He noted it was typically tied to the number of loans approved.

Mr. Tucker stated the annual meeting had taken place, with Ms. Werner providing the bulk of the effort on the meeting. He noted Ms. Lane and Mr. Vanderberg had begun the MicroEnterprise grants providing up to \$25,000 in funding to the businesses who qualified. He stated Mr. Brown continued work on housing. He stated the IDA had received an application for a 154 unit housing project, which was being considered. He noted there was a housing project located in Chatham that was in the very beginning stages.

Mr. Tucker stated NYS would be releasing the Consolidated Funding guidelines in the next couple of weeks.

Having no further business and no public comments, the committee meeting was adjourned at 8:51 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Calvin, seconded by Mr. Cummings. Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Drahushuk