



Document #3:

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Zoom Meeting: April 12, 2023 – 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Attended: Theodore L. Chandler, Jr., Wilson Flohr, Thomas R. Frantz, Ross Grogg, Mitch Haddon, Bob Holsworth, Sarah Jane Kirkland, Christopher Lloyd, John W. Martin, John F. Reinhart, Laura Robidoux, Bryan Stephens

Absent: Brian Anderson, Cliff Fleet, Moses Foster, Nancy Grden, Greg Gilligan, Aubrey L. Layne, Peggy Layne, James Spore

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Minutes Approval
2. Financial Update
3. Organization and Committee Updates
 - a. Communications
 - b. MIC
 - c. Government Relations
 - d. Fundraising
 - e. Recruitment
 - f. Staffing
4. Initiatives Update
 - a. I-64 Gap
 - b. Walk/Bike Trails
 - c. Passenger Rail
5. Growing Discussion Around Newport News Airport
6. Planning for Upcoming EC Meeting with Jason El Koubi
7. Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan Executive Summary & Related Discussion
8. Old Business / New Business
9. Executive Session



Welcome and Minutes Approval

No vote was held because there was not a quorum. A vote will be held at a following meeting.

Financial Update

All 2023 invoices and renewal forms have been sent except for a few select invoices on hold to investors who paid 2022 funds in the first quarter 2023. The executive session will discuss the 2023 funding and budget in more detail at the end of this meeting.

Organization and Committee Updates

- a. Communications – The website has been launched and has received positive reviews from stakeholders.
- b. MIC – Co-chairs have been meeting with their regional MIC members. Both regions are organizing their members, developing communications, and setting up a meeting schedule.
- c. Convergence 2023 – Planning has commenced.
- d. Government Relations – Christopher Lloyd provided the current status of the budget approval process.
- e. Fundraising – Mitch Haddon provided a Development Committee update.
 - i. Role #1 – The Development Committee will follow up on collecting funds for 2023 invoices. A one-pager will be created to strengthen the “why” and our organization’s future.
 - ii. Role #2 – Help support the MIC and education leaders to increase engagement.
- f. Recruitment – Progress has been made with recruitment. Interest in our organization has been growing. Thanks to Thomas R. Frantz and Theodore L. Chandler for driving forward recruitment.
- g. Staffing – The staff has been getting into a rhythm with this growing organization. Discussions are in process about where to go next with staffing growth.

Initiatives Update

- a. I-64 Gap – VDOT is moving forward with contract developments.
- b. Walk/Bike Trails – Tom Cosgrove has requested a representative from RVA757 Connects to join his organization’s (Tidewater Trails Alliance’s) board of directors. His organization is using the plan developed by RVA757 Connects’ staff to build momentum with the walk/bike trail strategic plan. The EC provided candidate suggestions. John Martin will follow up by contacting these candidates.



- c. Passenger Rail – Long Bridge is still the primary focus for passenger rail support. RVA757 Connects' staff will have a meeting with DRPT and the three planning district commissions to discuss the next 5-year plan and how our organization can have input in the plan.

Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan Executive Summary & Related Discussion

A special thanks to Dr. Holsworth for his work on the report. The strategic plan is scheduled to be submitted to GO Virginia by the end of June. However, our organization has been approved to continue moving forward with the implementation of the strategic plan before this date.

The strategic plan will be the topic of the upcoming board/MIC meeting on April 26, including tenets, schedule, and next steps. The full plan will be sent to the EC once it's complete, and feedback will be provided over the next several weeks.

Old Business / New Business

Rony Thomas, President and CEO of LifeNet Health, will be featured on the next Innovation Spotlight. It was suggested to consider paid advertising. GO Virginia regions 2, 4, 5, and 7 will be invited to join. RVA757 Connects' staff will create a social media plan – a one-page outline will be created.

Executive Session

Began at 8:57 a.m.

Addendum

A pop-up meeting was held on April 17 for EC members who were unable to attend the April 12 meeting to continue the discussion on the Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan report. No action was taken during this meeting.