



Document #2:
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2021

Zoom Meeting: November 3, 2021 – 8:00 am – 9:00 am

Attended: Theodore L. Chandler, Jr., Wilson Flohr, Moses Foster, Thomas R. Frantz, Sarah Jane Kirkland, Peggy Layne, John W. Martin, John F. Reinhart, James Spore, Mitch Haddon, and Laura Robidoux

Absent: Cliff Fleet, Bob Holsworth, Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.

Agenda Items:

1. Approve October 20th Executive Committee Minutes
2. Nominations Committee Update
3. Development Committee Update
4. Chambers' October 27 Convergence 2021 Recap & Discussion
 - a. Final Attendance by Region
 - b. Discussion – Overall Takeaways on the Event
 - c. What Attendees Volunteered for in 2022
5. Planning for 2022 – Next Meeting
 - a. Goal: Present plan at final 2021 Board/MIC Meeting
 - b. Growing List of Agenda Topics
 - c. Agree on Meeting Date and Time
6. Old Business/New Business

Approve October 20th Executive Committee Minutes

The Executive Committee (EC) unanimously approved the October 20th EC meeting minutes.



Nominations Committee Update

A general discussion was held on the status of RVA757 Connects' Board of Directors. It was agreed that the next recruitment wave needs to increase the RVA region's representation on the board. The EC identified potential candidates:

- Susan Horne, President/CEO, Lead Virginia
- Van Knick, Senior Vice President, Capital One
- Polly White, Chief Operating Officer, Gather

Wells Fargo, an RVA757 Connects' financial supporter, will have a representative added to the board. Wells Fargo's leaders are in the process of deciding who will represent them.

The Nominations Committee reinforced the importance of the Innovation Council (IC) planned for 2022. This new RVA757 Connects' group will be defined by diversity, creativity, and innovation. It was recommended that the Nominations Committee review the most recent 40 under 40 lists for potential IC recruits. Sarah Jane Kirkland and Moses Foster have already started a list of IC candidates.

A general discussion was held on education leaders as board directors and MIC members – how best to engage our current education leaders and who else to add. The list of candidate possibilities could include college and university presidents, HBCU leaders, community college presidents, and Virginia Community College System leaders. It was agreed that RVA757 Connects' current higher education leaders on the board should be charged in 2022 with formulating recommendations on how to include and engage higher education leaders across the I-64 Innovation Corridor. Peggy Layne will help with this work.

Next Steps:

- The Nominations Committee will recruit 5-10 new directors from the RVA region. Ideally, this wave will be announced at the December 2021 Board/MIC meeting.
- Innovation Council concept details and recruitment parameters will be established for review during the EC's upcoming 2022 planning work.

Development Committee Update

Mitch Haddon attended the meeting to provide an in-depth update on development.

Mitch reported that RVA757 Connects is \$118K away from our yearly goal. We're in the last leg of 2021 fundraising.

There was a discussion about how to approach higher education leaders and MIC members, who may require alternative methods of contributing to RVA757 Connects such as partnership grants or their institutional foundations, rather than through personal giving.



It was suggested that in 2022 the MIC should hold a few separate meetings to build the group's culture. These separate meetings would present an opportunity for MIC members to discuss what level of financial support is appropriate and even possible.

The Development Committee will orchestrate a final fundraising push for 2021. Development work in 2022 will focus on approaching new directors and outside funding opportunities that align with RVA757 Connects' specific 2022 priorities as approved by the EC and full Board.

Next Steps:

- Laura Robidoux and John Martin will construct a letter for the Development Committee to use with higher education leaders.
- Peggy Lane will talk with community college leadership regarding the best way to approach VCCS and community colleges, including related foundations.

Chambers' October 27 Convergence 2021 Recap & Discussion

86 people attended Convergence 2021. Attendance was fairly distributed between both RVA and 757 regions.

Overall takeaways on Convergence 2021:

- One of the best presentations of RVA757 Connects' purpose to date.
- Large time commitment, but the single topic may have increased attendance.
- Content was valuable – this is a whole new opportunity to create connectivity and energy.
- Cathy Lewis may be a great spokesperson in spreading the word about the GIH.
- Vinay has been impressed by all the events he's participated in with us. Wants to stay involved and continue pushing the megaregion – scheduled to have article written about I-64 Innovation Corridor in InterGlobix magazine.
- The Chambers are interested in exploring a joint inter-regional bus trip. This idea is not tied to Convergence 2022 – both could be planned. The Chambers and RVA757 Connects will hold an event debrief.

John Martin reminded the EC that the immediate next step on the GIH concept is to hold a summit with all of the players (Virginia Beach, Henrico, economic development leaders, Vinay, et al.) to map out a definitive game plan on what to do to make the I-64 Innovation Corridor a top 15 GIH. This workplan will serve as input for a 2022 GO Virginia grant request from regions 4 and 5.

Attendees volunteered for very similar 2022 priorities as the Board/MIC survey results:

- 1) Future Target Industry Clusters
- 2) Global Internet Hub



3) New Apprenticeships

Next Steps:

- RVA757 Connects will convene the GIH planning summit.
- RVA757 Connects will convene the Chambers' Convergence 2021 debrief.

Planning for 2022 – Next Two Meeting

The next two Executive Committee meetings will be focused on preparing RVA757 Connects' 2022 scope of work. Once approved by the EC, the 2022 scope will be presented to the full board at the final 2021 Board/MIC Meeting, scheduled for December 8th from 12pm – 2pm.

John Martin reviewed the growing list of topics for planning process.

Next Step:

- Laura Robidoux will schedule a two-hour virtual pre-planning EC meeting for November 17th and an in-person EC retreat meeting for the week of December 1st.

Old Business/New Business

N/A