

**Minutes**  
**Legislation and Policy Committee Meeting**  
**Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership**  
**October 21, 2020**  
**2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**  
**[Zoom Meeting]**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 p.m. by Chair Marianne Radcliff, who noted that a quorum was present.

Members present: Chair Marianne Radcliff, Carrie Chenery, Dan Clemente\*, Deborah Flippo\*, Ned Masee, *ex officio*

\*Please note that Ned Masee appointed Dan Clemente and Deborah Flippo as temporary members of this committee for the duration of the meeting

Members absent: Bill Hayter, and Dan Pleasant

Other Board Members: Secretary Brian Ball, Rick Harrell, Secretary Aubrey Lane, Anne Oman, and John Reinhart

VEDP staff present: Lindsay Barker, Vince Barnett, Christine Bell, Jamie Canup, Jason El Koubi, Stephanie Florie, Jennifer Garrett, Katherine Goodwin, Sandi McNinch, John Mehfood, Lori Melancon, Debbie Melvin, Stephen Moret, Christy Morton, Tim Stuller, and Carrie Vuori

Guests present: Charles Kennington, Kim McKay, and Deputy Secretary Cassidy Rasnick

**Opening Remarks**

Chair Radcliff welcomed guests to the electronic meeting of VEDP's Legislation and Policy Committee. Chair Radcliff shared these remarks: "As you well know, the Governor declared a state of emergency in March due to the potential spread of COVID-19. Because an in-person meeting is unsafe and we wish to discharge our lawful purposes, duties and responsibilities, we are permitted by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as amended by the State Budget, to meet by electronic means without a quorum of our members being physically assembled at one location.

We are gathered now in a Zoom environment that is open to the public. The agenda suggests that the Committee will enter into a closed meeting for a portion of our meeting. When the Committee is ready to enter into a closed meeting, the Committee members and VEDP support staff necessary to support the closed meeting will leave this public Zoom environment and gather in a separate Zoom environment. When the closed meeting is concluded, the Committee members will rejoin this public Zoom environment and the public portions of the meeting will

continue. Should anyone from the public get disconnected from the public Zoom environment and be unable to re-engage, he or she should call (804) 278-7702 and speak to Jennifer Garrett. We will do our best to re-engage and will halt the public portion of the meeting until the connection can be re-established.

Here are reminders of a few things that will be different than our in-person meetings:

- Everything on the public Zoom environment will be recorded and the recording will be posted on VEDP's website.
- All votes will be taken by roll call.
- Please use the mute function, unless you are speaking—and remember to unmute at the appropriate time.
- During the public comment period, any member of the public wishing to make a comment may simply unmute and speak at that time, or use the Chat function and ask to be given an opportunity to speak.
- Likewise, during the meeting, Committee members may simply unmute themselves to speak or use the Chat function.”

Chair Radcliff shared that she is pleased to join the Legislation and Policy committee as Chair, and thanked VEDP Chairman of the Board, Ned Masee for the appointment. She mentioned that she has worked in legislation and policy for a long time and looks forward to working with everyone to help further economic development initiatives across the Commonwealth.

### **Public Comment Period**

Chair Radcliff solicited public comments. There were none.

### **Approval of Minutes for January 29, 2020 Meeting**

Chair Radcliff asked for approval of the minutes from the January 29, 2020, meeting. Ned Masee, Chairman of the Board of VEDP, appointed Mr. Clemente and Ms. Flippo to this committee for the duration of this meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Chenery and seconded by Mr. Clemente and the minutes were approved as presented by roll call vote:

|                |              |                 |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Upon the vote: | Ms. Chenery  | Aye             |
|                | Mr. Clemente | Aye             |
|                | Ms. Flippo   | Aye             |
|                | Mr. Hayter   | Absent for vote |
|                | Mr. Pleasant | Absent for vote |
|                | Ms. Radcliff | Abstain         |

### **Special Session Update – Christy Morton**

Ms. Morton gave an update on the Special Session. She mentioned that the General Assembly returned in August to consider the Governor's recommendations for the biennial budget, issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and consider legislation on criminal justice and police reform. Ms. Morton shared that we were at day 65, and this is one of the longer special sessions she has seen.

Ms. Morton discussed that Governor Northam's introduced budget included reallocating \$2M in FY21 for VJIP. All other VEDP expanded funding items remained unallocated. Ms. Morton mentioned that the House and Senate conference report leaves the \$2M additional funding for VJIP in place.

In closing, Ms. Morton thanked the Administration, Secretary Ball and his team, the Senate Finance and Appropriations and House Appropriations committee staff, for all their help and work over the last few months.

### **Closed Meeting**

Chair Radcliff stated that we are now going to move into Closed Session to discuss the Legislative and Budget Requests for 2021 General Assembly Session. A motion was made by Ms. Chenery and seconded by Mr. Clemente, and unanimously approved by roll call vote, the Committee moved into a closed meeting.

I MOVE THAT THE LEGISLATION AND POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP AUTHORITY CONVENE A CLOSED MEETING PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE §2.2-3711(A)(50) TO ENGAGE IN A DISCUSSION OR CONSIDERATION OF THOSE PORTIONS OF VEDP'S STRATEGIC PLAN, MARKETING PLAN OR OPERATIONAL PLAN, THAT MAY RELATE TO TARGET COMPANIES, SPECIFIC ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AND STAFF FOR MARKETING ACTIVITIES, AND SPECIFIC MARKETING ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD REVEAL TO THE COMMONWEALTH'S COMPETITORS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THE STRATEGIES INTENDED TO BE DEPLOYED BY THE COMMONWEALTH, THEREBY ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE FINANCIAL INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

|                |              |                 |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Upon the vote: | Ms. Chenery  | Aye             |
|                | Mr. Clemente | Aye             |
|                | Ms. Flippo   | Aye             |
|                | Mr. Hayter   | Absent for vote |
|                | Mr. Pleasant | Absent for vote |
|                | Ms. Radcliff | Aye             |

Ms. McNinch stated we should leave this public environment and go to the link for the other Zoom meeting for the closed session.

### **Back in Open Meeting, Certification of Closed Meeting – Followed by a Roll Call vote:**

WHEREAS, THE LEGISLATION AND POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP AUTHORITY HAS CONVENEED A CLOSED MEETING ON THIS DATE PURSUANT TO AN AFFIRMATIVE RECORDED VOTE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT; AND

WHEREAS, THE ACT REQUIRES A CERTIFICATION BY THIS COMMITTEE THAT SUCH CLOSED MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE ACT;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE COMMITTEE CERTIFIES THAT, TO THE BEST OF EACH MEMBER'S KNOWLEDGE, (I) ONLY PUBLIC BUSINESS MATTERS

LAWFULLY EXEMPTED FROM OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ACT WERE DISCUSSED IN THE CLOSED MEETING TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION APPLIES, AND (II) ONLY SUCH PUBLIC BUSINESS MATTERS AS WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE MOTION BY WHICH THE CLOSED MEETING WAS CONVENED WERE HEARD, DISCUSSED, OR CONSIDERED IN THE CLOSED MEETING BY THE COMMITTEE.

|                |              |                 |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Upon the vote: | Ms. Chenery  | Aye             |
|                | Mr. Clemente | Absent for vote |
|                | Ms. Flippo   | Aye             |
|                | Mr. Hayter   | Absent for vote |
|                | Mr. Pleasant | Absent for vote |
|                | Ms. Radcliff | Aye             |

### **Engagement – Christy Morton**

Ms. Morton shared examples of how VEDP is engaging decision makers. VEDP has been working closely with the Administration on priorities for the 2020 Special Session and 2021 Regular Session. She said that VEDP has been working closely with the Virginia Economic Developers Association (VEDA) and other stakeholder groups on economic development initiatives and post-COVID priorities. Ms. Morton shared that VEDP is developing handouts that demonstrate the importance of VEDP’s budget and legislative priorities to create new jobs for economic recovery.

Ms. Morton discussed how VEDP is planning to proactively reach out to legislators regarding announcements in their districts and making sure they are aware of the programs we are using, and programs being offered by other agencies as well. Ms. Morton stated that there were updated Board Outreach books which could be found in Board Effects, and that VEDP is developing talking points for board members as they reach out to leaders in their communities and region.

Ms. Morton thanked the members of the committee for the continued outreach they are doing.

Ms. Chenery shared when conducting regional outreach to legislators, it would be helpful to know which of VEDP’s public presentations VEDP would like shared. She asked if after each meeting, VEDP could direct the committee members to what would be most useful to share with our contacts. Ms. Chenery mentioned that having one or two high impact presentations or a couple slides would be very helpful in their outreach efforts.

Ms. Morton said that Ms. Chenery’s idea was great, and that we’d be happy to do that.

Ms. Flippo shared that legislation last year that affected the conflict of interest statements that EDA and IDA members must complete has been devastating throughout locals and regionals. She asked Ms. Morton if VEDP was going to address this or was VEDA going to do that?

Ms. Morton shared the VEDP has been on multiple calls with VEDA, and it is her understanding that VEDA is planning to work on introducing legislation to address that. Ms. Morton also said we may have the opportunity to comment on legislation or to recommend a position.

Secretary Brian Ball mentioned that he and Deputy Secretary Cassidy Rasnick recently spoke to VEDA. He thinks it's going to be a VEDA led initiative, but we will have plenty of opportunities to weigh in on that.

### **Anticipated Topics for Next Meeting**

Chair Radcliff mentioned that the next committee meeting will be in late January, and by that time, we will know what's in the introduced budget and more.

Ms. Chenery expressed to Chair Radcliff that between now and January, committee members need to be called upon to help where they can by reaching out to others, etc.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Radcliff adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Bell  
Acting Recording Secretary