



JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
NORTHEAST GEORGIA

Athens-Clarke - Oconee - Barrow - Elbert - Jackson - Madison - Oglethorpe
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Meeting Minutes

10:00 AM, March 14, 2019

Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

NEGRC Large Conference Room

Members Present: **Amy Stone, Courtney Bernardi, Ryan Thornton**

NEGRC Staff Present: **Jordan Shoemaker, Eva Kennedy**

- I. Call Meeting to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order by JDANEG Chair Amy Stone at 10:12
- II. Introduction of New Members
 - a. Mr. Ryan Thornton, ACC
- III. Review and Approval of the Minutes from October 16th, November 14
 - a. Approved
- IV. CEDS Discussion
 - a. JDA decides to look at the CEDS and examine how the JDA can help with achieving the goals
 - b. The CEDS is the document that guides economic development in the region, NEGRC is a district under EDA
- V. General Discussion
 - a. Chair Stone: the JDA needs a project to move the JDA forward
 - i. Ms. Bernardi asks if there is a regional cooperative project that has been identified.
 - b. CEDS help define regional identity in other regions
 - c. Mr. Thornton asks if there are group or similar projects that use JDA resources efficiently in other areas
 - d. Chair Stone suggests that the JDA go through the current county projects to see what fits in with the JDA's mission, creating a joint STWP that aligns with the CEDS and the JDA's current needs
 - e. Transit is identified as a need, as it relates to growth and housing
 - i. Regional Co-op research is identified as an activity for the JDA
 - ii. Chair Stone suggests the group also include employers in the larger scope of the project
 - iii. ACC previously conducted a survey, the results will be found by Thornton and distributed to the group
 - iv. Ms. Kennedy introduces the JDA to the possibility of a GDOT rural transit partnership to conduct research and planning; it is identified that the definition of rural and urban may present a conflict
 - v. Chair Stone notes that Enterprise offers a van service for employers
 - vi. Mr. Thornton suggests that transit may solve some housing issues, suggests that demographics be included in the research, as well as how childcare and afterschool programs feature in the transit discussion
 - vii. Steps are identified for the project
 1. NEGRC will conduct research
 2. ACC's 2015 survey results will be distributed
 3. Inform other JDA members of the project and the potential benefits
- VI. Review of Task Matrix and Goals
 - a. The task matrix has been eliminated

- b. Work on the regional transit project to identify and integrate workforce needs with housing, childcare, and transportation
 - i. Ask companies for “heat maps” for employees
 - ii. Include HR managers in the project and research

VII. Area Updates

- a. Ms. Bernardi- Board of Commissioners is moving economic development to the Chamber, creating a strategic plan for economic development with the cities
- b. Mr. Thornton- Project based work, Ms. Michelle Nguyen named the official Director, Envision Athens continues implementation
- c. Ms. Stone- Comprehensive plan is nearly complete, broadband survey is completed, working with wireless providers to expand services

VIII. Adjourn- 12:10