



**COLUMBIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Columbia Community Development Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Tina N. Herbert called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

| <b>Attendee Name</b> | <b>Title</b> | <b>Status</b> | <b>Arrived</b> |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Tina N. Herbert      | Chair        | Present       |                |
| Howard E. Duvall     | Member       | Present       |                |
| Will Brennan         | Member       | Present       |                |

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

1. Let's Build Together Workshop - The Honorable Tina N. Herbert

Councilor Herbert announced the Let's Build Together Workshop which will invite non-profits and churches to become more involved in understanding housing development. It's an opportunity to hear what the city has to offer and connect them to developers who can assist them. It is one of the recommendations from the Affordable Housing Task Force. We're going to start promoting it today. Let us know if you have any churches that would be interested.

There was a discussion about the workshop's promotion, the connection to the Affordable Housing Task Force, identifying inventory of vacant lots, and properly preparing individuals to be in the housing arena.

2. Update on Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) 2024 Conference - Mr. Tige Watts, President of the Richland County Neighborhood Council

Mr. Tige Watts, President of the Richland County Neighborhood Council announced that on August 31, 2023, the NUSA Board voted unanimously to award the host site to the city of Columbia and Richland County during May 22 - May 25, 2024. This is the first time the conference will be held in the Carolinas. The average conference participant spends up to \$5,000. This is an educational workshop with opportunities to highlight local neighborhoods. The theme is "Revive, Restore, & Rejuvenate" and we are developing a conference logo, workshops, and an opening Palmetto Reception featuring the governor, Richland County and the city of Columbia. We will need funding from the city and the county to host the conference and for marketing. We are developing a sponsorship package. We were awarded up to \$25,000 that will be repaid from registrations.



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There was a discussion about the anticipated number of participants, using a formal event planner and the need for a project manager before 2024.

There was consensus of the committee to receive monthly updates.

Ms. Felicia Kilgore, Director of Community Development said we have a meeting scheduled to discuss the Community Development Department's involvement in planning the conference.

3. Business License Incentive for Grocery Stores - Ms. Ayesha Driggers, Director of the Office of Business Opportunities

Ms. Ayesha Driggers, Director of the Office of Business Opportunities said we incorporated the feedback received at the last meeting. We clarified the designated business area and added North Main Street and the Bull Street District. We wanted to make it clear that we received recommendations from the Food Policy Committee. They were a part of the decision on what we included in this incentive.

Ms. Kelly L. Smith, Business License Administrator said instead of one year, we updated it to five years of rebates per location. It would be 100% of the annual business license fees.

Ms. Ayesha Driggers, Director of the Office of Business Opportunities said for established businesses, we did 75%. We talked to the Food Policy Committee and based off their feedback, we did 75% for existing grocery stores.

Mr. Bob Petruilis, Hyatt Park Neighborhood resident said Hyatt Park is a food desert. A business license fee based on gross sales has a huge impact on grocery stores. This can be a good incentive to get folks to consider the North Main area. We discussed this in a neighborhood association meeting and we wanted to make our support known.

There was discussion about the potential sunset date and clarification of relocation language.

There was consensus of the Committee to provide a five year incentive from the date of the application and to address the ordinance sunset date of five years separately. No one can apply after May 1, 2028.



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4. Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program Two-Year Extension - Ms. Felicia Kilgore, Director of Community Development

Ms. Felicia Kilgore, Director of Community Development recalled reporting that as we move forward to close out the Disaster Recovery Program, we received guidance from our HUD representative to request the max extension which is two years. As we reconcile the general ledger, we want to use those funds to assist individuals who haven't previously received assistance. This is still being considered by HUD and they are still waiting for additional reconciliation.

There was a discussion about excess funds reallocated towards other projects and the under usage of funds.

5. Affordable Housing Campaign - The Honorable Tina N. Herbert - *Withdrawn*

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC  
City Clerk