



Columbia Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Call to Order

The Columbia Community Development Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Honorable Will Brennan and The Honorable Sam P. Johnson were present.

Approval of Minutes

1. September 23, 2025 Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Johnson, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the September 23, 2025 Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes.

Committee Discussion

2. Mobile Market Update — Ms. Ayesha Driggers, Director / Office of Business Opportunities and Mr. Larry Schneeberger / Toms Creek Mobile Market

Ms. Ayesha Driggers, Director of the Office of Business Opportunities provided an update on the city's Mobile Market. She reported that approximately \$300,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding supported operations over the past two years, but the funding has been exhausted. The market operated at Hyatt Park, the COMET Transit Center, the corner of Millwood Avenue and Gervais Street, and the former Save-A-Lot site. About \$335,645 in city funds and a \$30,000 contribution from Elevation Church also supported the Mobile Market. Tom's Creek plans to pursue additional grant funding for continued operations. The Mobile Market will resume in May with two fixed locations and one rotating day.

Mr. Larry Schneeberger, Tom's Creek Mobile Market discussed several partnerships that have developed through the program with FoodShare, the University of South Carolina Campus Store, Richland County Public Library, and the Broad River RV Park. He noted that these partnerships have been strengthened through the city's collaboration and the visibility created by the Mobile Market trailer.

There was discussion regarding sustainable business models for small business ownership; library clientele; free partnerships; products offered on the trailer; grant opportunities; the proposed operating schedule; top-selling produce items; use of senior vouchers; connectivity planning; and an update on the brick-and-mortar location.

3. NeedNoMore Initiative — Ms. Ayesha Driggers, Director / Office of Business Opportunities, and Ms. Svitlana Koval and Mr. Yurii Koval, Co-Founders / NeedNoMore

Ms. Ayesha Driggers, Director / Office of Business Opportunities introduced a new initiative involving an app designed to improve communication and access to food resources through local food banks. The concept was recently presented at Launchpad Cola. She explained that the founders have been working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of Business Opportunities.

Ms. Svitlana Koval and Mr. Yuri Koval, Co-founders / NeedNoMore presented a digital platform designed to improve access to food resources by connecting food pantries with people in need. The app provides a real-time map of pantry locations, allows users to update information, and enables filtering by food type and eligibility requirements. Pantries can also indicate available items and send alerts when they have excess donations. The platform helps to reduce food waste, improve communication, and provide real-time data to help the city better understand food access needs.

Mr. Alan "Blake" Blackborough, representative of Launchpad Cola explained that the program supports early-stage entrepreneurs by helping turn ideas into scalable businesses. He highlighted NeedNoMore as a strong example of this process and emphasized the platform's potential to reduce food waste and better connect available resources with people in need through community-driven technology.

There was discussion about technology accessibility; a potential partnership with the library; maintaining the platform as a web-based application; funding opportunities; organizational outreach and networking; working alongside grocery stores; the number of food pantries in the area; and a potential connection with the Mobile Market.

There was consensus of the Committee to endorse the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with NeedNoMore for City Council's consideration.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM
City Clerk