



# Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

## May 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM

### Hybrid Meeting

#### ATTENDANCE

<b>Board:</b>	Clairton	Lori Schmidt
	Duquesne	
	East Pittsburgh	Tom Michlovic
	Glassport	
	Homestead	
	McKeesport	
	Munhall	
	Pittsburgh	Rob Witherell
	Rankin	John McDonough
	Swissvale	Amy Starrett
	Turtle Creek	
	West Homestead	

#### Proxy Votes:

**Staff:** Tom Croft; Bob Value; Carrie Mihalko; Deb Lutz; Anita Prizio; Will Bernstein

**Solicitor:** Mike Healey

Chairperson Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

#### PROXY VOTE REVIEW

Staff member Carrie Mihalko conducted roll call. Quorum was met with attendees.

#### MINUTES

Copies of the minutes were made available in member packets.

*The minutes of the February 2024 meeting were approved on motion by Tom Michlovic and seconded by Amy Starrett. The motion passed unanimously by members McDonough, Michlovic, Schmidt, Starrett and Witherell with no abstentions.*

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Value provided an overview of the financials noting the books have good liquidity. Nancy Sweeney is still completing journal entries provided after the audit. The Finance Committee reviewed the audit and made a recommendation for approval.

*The Finance Committee report was approved on a motion by John McDonough and seconded by Tom Michlovic. The motion passed unanimously by members McDonough, Michlovic, Schmidt, Starrett and Witherell with no abstentions.*

## **SECRETARY REPORT**

Amy Starrett provided an overview of the pieces of correspondence from the last month.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Michlovic provided an update that the SVA is conducting staff evaluations which will be shared with the committee later.

## **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Focus on large event in 2025 to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SVA. Currently conducting outreach for the ad hoc committee.

## **PROGRAM/TECH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

No updates from the committee.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Will Bernstein

Provided updates on the Finance Hub projecting including hiring Alaa Mohammed and retaining Rebecca Kiernan as a consultant. The Hub Kickoff meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21.

Tom Croft provided the Executive Director report noting the following highlights.

- The Heartland Governing Board met in April in Washington DC with over 40 attendees. A special recognition of Steve Coyle and Ed Smith was held due to their passing in the last year.
- Heartland was invited to participate in a convening at the White House from the National Economic Council. This focused on clean energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing. Not enough private dollars are being invested in climate change.
- Tom Michlovic suggested someone should estimate the costs of climate change damage from flooding and other events.
- Heartland hired Ama Germain as the new coordinator. She came to the SVA from the Pittsburgh Tech Council.
- The 2024 Fellowship program will start in June with 10 new students and hosts.
- Tom co-authored a chapter in the book "Empowering Smart Cities through Community-Centred Public Private Partnerships & Innovations." The book was published by the Partnership for Inclusive Innovation.

Bob Value provided the following highlights on SEWN:

- There's been an uptick in new client activity.
- Some of the current client engagements will be ending by June 30.
- The high interest rates are not coming down.

- Gary Wickham, NE Regional Director, retired April 30. Hired Jeff Papach who has a strong manufacturing and turnaround background.
- The Southeast Regional Director is bringing back the Manufacturing Alliance in his region.

Carrie Mihalko

- Attended the PWDA Conference in Hershey with NW Regional Director, Deb Lutz.
- Highlighted the PA Business Resource website ([www.pabusinessresources.org](http://www.pabusinessresources.org))
- Mike Healey asked about the meeting with PA Department of Labor & Industry Secretary Nancy Walker.

**The formal meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.**