

Date: June 23, 2005
To: I-85 Corridor Alliance Board
From: Larry Fillmer, I-85 Corridor Alliance Executive Director
Ray Vaughan, I-85 Corridor Alliance Secretary
Subject: June 23, 2005 Board Meeting Minutes

The I-85 Corridor Alliance Board Working Session for June was convened at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 23, 2005 at the Bridges Travel Plaza Restaurant in Cusseta, Alabama. We thank Alabama State Representative DuWayne Bridges, through Valerie Gray, for arranging our meeting and for their hospitality. The attendees at the meeting were:

1. Deroald Hopkins – First Tuskegee Bank
2. Sandy Nichols - Wildlaw
3. Yvonne Hardy - Auburn University Engineering Technical Assistance Program
4. Kristen McClendon – Auburn University Engineering Technical Assistance Program
5. Scott Slocum – Weston Solutions
6. Al Cook – City of Opelika
7. Valerie Gray – Chambers County Industrial Development Authority
8. Larry Fillmer - Auburn University Development
9. Steve Sherman – Alabama Power
10. Dr. Joanne Jordan – Southern Union State Community College
11. Dr. David Wilson – Auburn University Outreach Office
12. Rebecca Cox – Auburn University Development Office (Guest)
13. Jerry Purcell - Auburn University Development Office (Guest)
14. Buddy Merrill – Retired Georgia Power Executive (Guest)

Introduction

Larry Fillmer opened the meeting and a round of interlocutions was made. Deroald Hopkins gave a brief overview of his trip to Asia with the Auburn Executive MBA program. They spent six days in Seoul and six days in Beijing; saw the Headquarters of Hyundai, Samsung and found their operations very impressive.

Officers Reports

Larry mentioned that the paper work for the 501(c) (3) exemption had been filed by Ray Vaughan with the IRS and indicated that the IRS had sent a notification of receipt regarding the filing.

Deroald gave an update on the Tuskegee Exit 38 gateway project. The National Park Service is going to be taking a leadership role with regard to soliciting grant support for a feasibility study of the project. The project is now beginning to gather momentum among the National Park Service, Tuskegee University, the City of Tuskegee and Macon County.

Scott Slocum gave the Treasurer's report. There is \$2,000 in the bank account at Auburn Bank. The City of Opelika, Chambers County, Weston Solutions, and Auburn University Montgomery have made their \$500 contributions. WildLaw paid the \$500 filing fee to the IRS as their contribution.

Project Updates

Larry gave an update on planning for the Fall Innovation and Business Partnership Forum planned for September 15-17th. All Board members are invited and encouraged to attend. Approximately 120 invitations have been mailed, and we currently have about 10 acceptances. We are now considering some contingency planning if we receive more than the hoped-for 25-30 participants. Ron Evans of the Auburn Development Office and Larry are contacting key people to be sure that we know their intentions for attendance.

The Forum Program has been developed, but it is not yet finalized. We are working on securing Duane Ackerman, Chairman and CEO of BellSouth to be the keynote speaker at dinner on September 15th. We requested and have received support from Governor Riley's office to help secure Mr. Ackerman as our speaker. Although we tried to carefully plan the Fall Forum so that it would not conflict with other events, we now know that there will also be an Auburn University Trustees meeting occurring on the same dates. We will coordinate carefully with Dr. Richardson's office to be sure that we are not creating any conflicts between Fall Forum and the Trustees Meeting.

The program on Friday, September 16th begins with buffet breakfast at 7:30 at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center (AUHCC). From 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. the program will focus on Auburn University research programs and the new Research Park. After a thirty minute break, the focus for the remainder of the morning will be "Why Auburn University and the I-85 Corridor Alliance?" The topic will be discussed through a panel discussion facilitated by Gary Fuller, Mayor of the City of Opelika. The Panel will feature noted Regional personalities from the public, private and educational sectors. The closing speaker for the morning session will be State Representative Mike Hubbard, with the morning program concluding at approximately 11:30 a.m. After lunch, our guests will be invited for golf or an alternative activity. There will be a casual dinner on the lawn of the Auburn University President's Mansion at 7:00 p.m. On Saturday, there will be a tailgate party and participants will be invited to attend the Auburn University vs. Ball State football game.

All program events on Thursday evening and Friday morning will be held in the AUHCC. There will be room for 8 display booths. Larry requested that anyone interested in putting up a booth let him know about their plans as soon as possible. The

booths will likely have to be set up on Thursday afternoon, September 15th. Please share any suggestions or ideas for this event with Larry. Board member's participation and presence will be very important.

Larry also gave an update on the Workforce Development Initiative - "The Academy of Technical Business" being proposed by Auburn University College of Business and Southern Union State Community College. A detailed prospectus has been developed and is currently being vetted through the appropriate curriculum channels at Auburn University. While the program is going through curriculum review at Auburn, there is a need to begin the process of seeking funds for the prototype program to start in January 2006. Dr. Jordan suggested a possible meeting with Dr. Roy Johnson to brief him on the program and the need for funding. Larry will work with Dr. Jordan and the appropriate personnel from Auburn University to schedule the meeting.

Finally, Larry gave a quick overview of plans for tradeshow in the fall. The alliance is committed to going to Plastics USA in Chicago in September and the National Business Aviation Trade Show in New Orleans in November. A delegation from Alabama Power will be attending the Plastics meeting and the Alliance will work with Steve Sherman and Margaret Bentley to clarify details for participation by the I-85 Corridor Alliance. The Alliance needs to decide who to send to each show.

Valerie Gray reported on the Langdale Mill Project. The City of Valley has received a grant for developing a restoration plan. A representative from Senator Shelby's office came to tour the site on Wednesday, June 22, 2005 and the Retirement System of Alabama has also expressed interest in getting involved the project. The project has also been described in National Geographic online (http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/06/0614_050614_textilemills.html). The City of Valley is now beginning the process of evaluating interest in the program by commercial developers.

Valerie asked if the Alliance would be willing to provide letters of support to Chambers County as they seek additional funds for the restoration effort. It was agreed that the Alliance would provide the necessary support documents. Valerie is to advise either Larry or Deroald when the letter(s) will be required.

Cluster Updates.

Al Cook gave an update on the coordination and infrastructure development going on in Opelika as they prepare for Gambro Renal Products, Jo Ann Stores and Max Forma Plastics to begin operations there.

As there were no other items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Next meeting will be Thursday, July 28, 2005, 8:00AM-10:00AM CT; location TBD.