

Greater Alexandria Economic Development Authority Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes: Meeting of Tuesday, March 18th, 2025

Present: Mr. Steven R. McGee, Vice Chair; Rev. Earl Williams Jr., Secretary/Treasurer;
Mr. John Carroll; Mr. Chris Patel; Mr. Ronald Morgan

Absent: Dr. Curtis Lewis, Chair; Mr. John Callis

The regular meeting of the Greater Alexandria Economic Development Authority (GAEDA) was called to order at 8:15 am by AVice Chair, Commissioner Steven R. Mcgee. Kiana Siders conducted the roll call. A quorum was declared present.

PRESENTATION:

The board received a presentation from Kevin Murphy of Ryan based in Baton Rouge, LA.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Carroll, seconded by Commissioner McGee to approve the February 2025 Consent Agenda. Brief discussion was held. Roll call vote:

- Commissioner Lewis: Absent
- Commissioner McGee: Yes
- Commissioner Williams: Yes
- Commissioner Carroll: Yes
- Commissioner Patel: Yes
- Commissioner Morgan: Yes
- Commissioner Callis: Absent

Motion Passed (5-0)

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of GAEDA Administrative Assistant Position Description

It was moved by Commissioner Morgan, seconded by Commissioner McGee. Discussion was held regarding the responsibilities and expectations of the position. Roll call vote:

- Commissioner Lewis: Absent
- Commissioner McGee: Yes
- Commissioner Williams: Yes
- Commissioner Carroll: No
- Commissioner Patel: No
- Commissioner Morgan: Yes
- Commissioner Callis: Absent

Motion Failed (3-2)

Authorization to Hire Full-Time Administrative Assistant

It was moved by Commissioner McGee, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. The Board discussed the operational needs and funding considerations for hiring a full-time assistant. Roll call vote:

- Commissioner Lewis: Absent
- Commissioner McGee: Yes
- Commissioner Williams: Yes
- Commissioner Carroll: No
- Commissioner Patel: No
- Commissioner Morgan: Yes
- Commissioner Callis: Absent

Motion Failed (3-2)

Approval of March 2025 Economic Development Committee Special Call Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner McGee, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. Discussion was held and a roll call vote:

- Commissioner Lewis: Absent
- Commissioner McGee: Yes
- Commissioner Williams: Yes
- Commissioner Carroll: Yes
- Commissioner Patel: Yes
- Commissioner Morgan: Yes
- Commissioner Callis: Absent

Motion Passed Unanimously (5-0)

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement-Explore Alexandria/Pineville

Purpose: Support for the Louisiana FFA Conference (May 30-June 2, 2025) in the amount of \$15,000 for meals and marketing, and \$5,000 for fireworks.

It was moved by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner McGee. Discussion was held on the anticipated impact and return on the investment of the event. Roll call vote:

- Commissioner Lewis: Absent
- Commissioner McGee: Yes
- Commissioner Williams: Yes
- Commissioner Carroll: No
- Commissioner Patel: Abstained
- Commissioner Morgan: Yes
- Commissioner Callis: Absent

Motion Failed (3-1, 1) abstention

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement-Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce

Amount: Not to exceed \$5,500 for 2025 programming.

It was moved by Commissioner McGee, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. Discussion was held on the value of Chamber collaboration. Roll call vote:

- Commissioner Lewis: Absent
- Commissioner McGee: Yes
- Commissioner Williams: Yes
- Commissioner Carroll: No
- Commissioner Patel: No
- Commissioner Morgan: Yes
- Commissioner Callis: Absent

Motion Failed (3-2)

Grant Request-Kent Plantation House

Purpose: Advertisement and marketing for Le Tour De Bayou (September 19-20, 2025) in the amount of \$10,000.

Outcome: No motion was made following discussion. Motion failed.

Grant Request-Manna House

Purpose: Meals, advertisement, and marketing for the AM Pro Tour (April 2-5, 2025) in the amount of \$10,000,

It was moved by Commissioner McGee, seconded by Commissioner Williams. Discussion was held. Roll call vote:

- Commissioner Lewis: Absent
- Commissioner McGee: Yes
- Commissioner Williams: Yes
- Commissioner Carroll: No
- Commissioner Patel: No
- Commissioner Morgan: Yes
- Commissioner Callis: Absent

Motion Failed (3-2)

Grant Request-Louisiana Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars

Purpose: State Convention (June 26-29, 2025), amount not to exceed \$5,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Morgan, seconded by Commissioner McGee. Discussion was held. Roll call vote:

- Commissioner Lewis: Absent
- Commissioner McGee: Yes
- Commissioner Williams: Yes
- Commissioner Carroll: No
- Commissioner Patel: No
- Commissioner Morgan: Yes

- Commissioner Callis: Absent

Motion Failed (3-2)

Grant Request-Grand Lodge of Louisiana F&AM

Purpose: 214th Annual Grand Lodge Session (April 25-28, 2025), amount not to exceed \$5,000.

Outcome: No motion was made following discussion. Motion failed.

Grant Request-Diocese of Alexandria

Purpose: Genesis of Eve Women's Conference (September 12-14, 2025), amount not to exceed \$5,000. It was moved by Commissioner McGee, seconded by Commissioner Williams. Roll call vote:

- Commissioner Lewis: Absent
- Commissioner McGee: Yes
- Commissioner Williams: Yes
- Commissioner Carroll: No
- Commissioner Patel: No
- Commissioner Morgan: Yes
- Commissioner Callis: Absent

Motion Failed (3-2)

Grant Request-Kappa Alpha Psi Southwestern Province

Purpose: Membership Training Academy (April 4-6, 2025), amount not to exceed \$10,000).

It was moved by Commissioner McGee, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. Discussion was held. Roll call vote:

- Commissioner Lewis: Absent
- Commissioner McGee: Yes
- Commissioner Williams: Yes
- Commissioner Carroll: No
- Commissioner Patel: Abstained
- Commissioner Morgan: Yes
- Commissioner Callis: Absent

Motion Failed (3-1, 1 abstention)

Grant Request-Knights of Columbus

Purpose: State Convention (May 2-4, 2025), amount not to exceed \$10,000).

It was moved by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner McGee. Discussion was held. Roll call vote:

- Commissioner Lewis: Absent
- Commissioner McGee: Yes
- Commissioner Williams: Yes
- Commissioner Carroll: No

- Commissioner Patel: No
- Commissioner Morgan: Yes
- Commissioner Callis: Absent

Motion Failed: (3-2)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Museum of Art Cooperative Endeavor Agreement

Executive Director Angela Varnado and the Board held discussion on a proposed CEA related to the Museum of Art, with input regarding the scope and anticipated benefits.

Amended Budget Proposal

Accountant John Theriot presented a proposed amended grant funding budget.

Legal Counsel Comments

Attorney Tiffany N. Sanders offered clarification on GAEDA's enabling ordinance, with emphasis on its broad authority and flexibility to promote and support economic development initiatives.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Williams provided a public explanation of the GAEDA ordinance to aid public understanding and transparency regarding funding and authority.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 AM.