



Richland County Council
Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
MINUTES
October 22, 2024 - 3:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Jesica Mackey, Chair, Paul Livingston, and Chakisse Newton

OTHERS PRESENT: Allison Terracio, Derrek Pugh, Gretchen Barron, Jason Branham, Anette Kirylo, Patrick Wright, Ashiya Myers, Angela Weathersby, Lori Thomas, Michelle Onley, Kenny Bowen, Leonardo Brown, Maddison Wilkerson, Aric Jensen, Stacey Hamm, Jackie Hancock, Jennifer Wladischkin, Quinton Epps, and Tamar Black

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairwoman Jesica Mackey called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 PM.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. September 24, 2024 – Mr. Livingston moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Ms. Newton.

In Favor: Livingston, Mackey, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Livingston moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Ms. Newton.

In Favor: Livingston, Mackey, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**
 - a. Public-Private Partnership Update – Ms. Mackey noted there is a roadmap the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee has been following. We are now at the 2nd to last step on the roadmap.

Ms. Emily Luther, Parker Poe gave a brief update on the public-private partnership (P3). She reported that the P3 Advisory Group held an additional meeting since the September committee meeting.

TIMELINE:

- August-November 2024 – P3 Focus Group and Council Updates
- November 2024 – Council Approval
- December 2024 – P3 Launch Event
- January-June 2025 – Operational Transition
- July 2025 – P3 fully operational at the beginning of the fiscal year

P3 FOCUS GROUP:

- 5-7 Members
- Citizen Input
- Limited Duration
- Advice Only
- Chair & Staff Convene

P3 FOCUS GROUP – PARTICIPANTS

- Dr. Tracey Dunn, Benedict College
- Michael Edens, First Reliance Bank
- Damon Jeter, Jet Corp Consulting Group
- Lasenta Lewis-Ellis, LLE Construction Group
- Heather Mitchell, Boudreaux Group
- Maceo Nance, SC Dept. of Commerce
- Ted Pitts, Wilson Kibler
- Rick Shippey, Mark Anthony Brewing
- Kim Smith, Health Evolve

P3 FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS:

- 4 Meetings: August 6 & 23, September 10, and October 8
- Chair, County Attorney, and County Administrator
- Approximately 2 Hours each
- Excellent attendance and engagement
- Thoughtful discussion

P3 FOCUS GROUP – DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Defining Success
 - Relevant
 - Respected
 - Addressing Priorities
 - County-wide Impact
- Board Composition
 - 2 Council Members
 - 3 Council Appointees
 - 4 Private Sector
 - Co-Chairs (Council & Private Sector)
- Funding & Organization
 - County-funded; private sector support
 - Executive Director and employees work for P3
 - P3 Board accountable to Council
- Priorities
 - Staple Items
 - Workforce Development
 - Community Engagement
 - Foster Relationships
- Mistakes to Avoid
 - Scope Creep
 - Duplicative
 - Clarity of Mission
- Name & Brand
 - Include Geographic Marker
 - Should not have to explain it
 - Seek Assistance (professional organizations)
- An Ideal Board Member
 - Diverse and reflective of the County they are representing
 - Community-minded, committed, and dedicated to the organization's mission
 - Have relationships and skills sufficient to connect people to the County's economic development mission
 - Knowledgeable about the County's economic development landscape and Council's strategic plan

- Final Thoughts:
 - The creation of a P3 is moving Richland County in the right direction-the P3 can help the County maintain and amplify the current momentum following some of the recent successes.
 - The P3 and Council should have like-minded mission and expectations
 - The P3's execution of Council's strategic plan and mission for economic development should be recognized as an innovation hub that exists in the state.

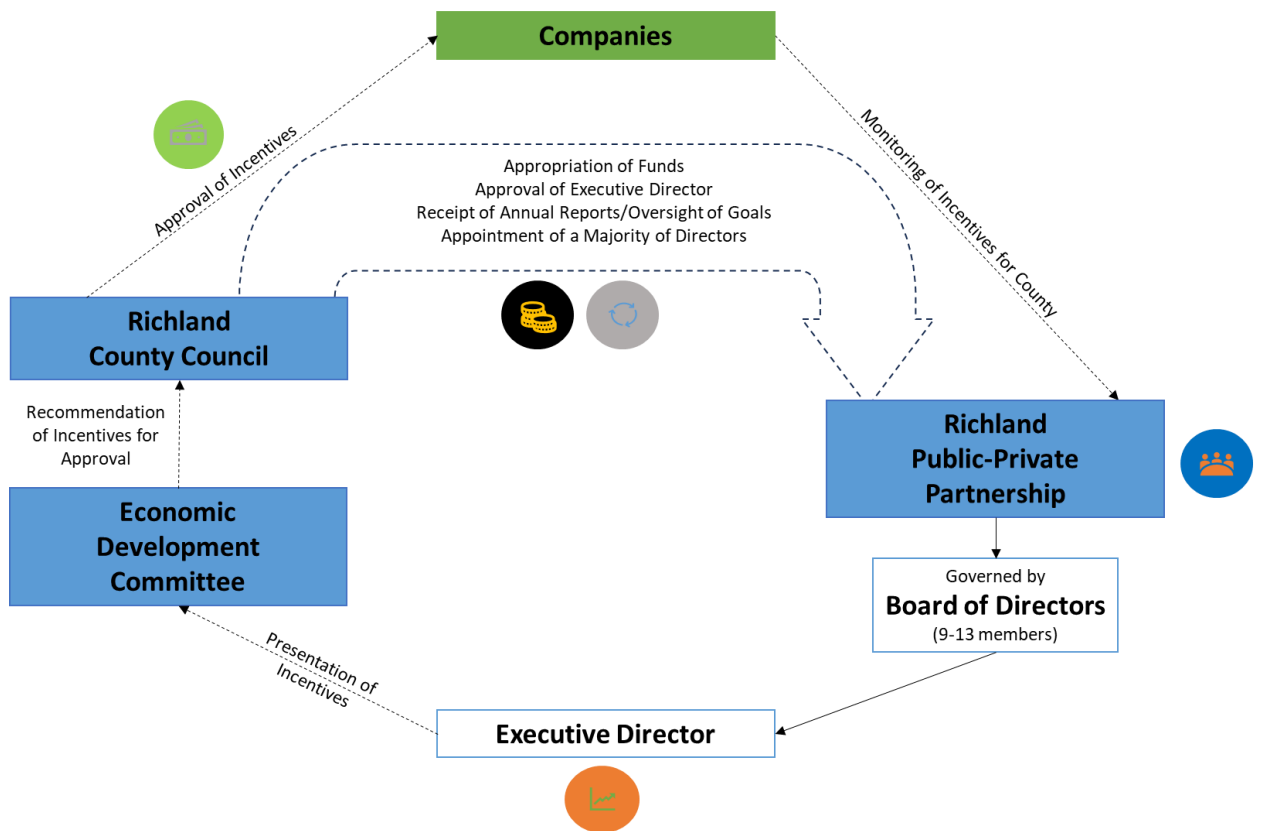
BYLAWS:

- Board of Directors to consist of:
 - Chair of County Council and Chair of County Council's Economic Development Committee
 - Three members from the private sector, appointed by County Council
 - Four additional members from the private sector, chosen by the P3 Board of Directors
 - Initial Co-Chairs of Board will be Chair of County Council and a private sector member

- Board members will:
 - Be residents of Richland County
 - Serve in staggered terms
 - Be subject to limitation on the number of terms
 - Be leaders in government and business specifications intentionally broad so the best candidates can be chosen

- The P3 will be organized and operated exclusively for:
 - Assisting the County to more efficiently and economically promote and enhance the economic growth and development of the County for the benefit and welfare of the citizens of the County; and
 - Becoming an integral part of the larger program of County government responsible for the economic development needs of the County.

- The P# will carry out this purpose through:
 - Encouraging, enhancing, and fostering economic development within the County; and
 - Assisting in the formulation, promotion, and support of programs designed to encourage, enhance, and foster economic development within the County in accordance with the strategic plan and initiatives of the County.



P3 ROADMAP:

- October 22: Strategic Ad Hoc Planning Committee Meeting
- November 12: Council Meeting
- November 19: County Meeting to adopt P3 Resolution
- December: P3 Launch
- January – June 2025: Transition Operations

Ms. Terracio inquired if the selection of the three members from the private sector would go through the Rules and Appointments Committee.

Ms. Mackey responded the selection would not go through the Rules and Appointments process. The selection and recommendation would go through the Economic Development Committee, and the body as a whole would vote on the recommendation. She noted the advertisement may change each time depending on the priorities at that particular time.

Ms. Barron recommended that Council establish a framework for what we are seeking. She expressed concern about the perception of Council with the body making appointments to such a prestigious/powerful group of individuals who would be setting the tone for economic development for the County.

Ms. Mackey indicated that the process for appointing members to the Board of Directors would be that Council members would make recommendations, which would then go to the Economic Development Committee for discussion. Ms. Luther did not expressly state the Economic Development Committee would consider the appointment of the three private-sector individuals and forward their recommendation to the body. She noted this would ensure that Council maintains the majority of the board seats.

Ms. Barron stated she wants the body to always err on the side of safety and be transparent in their processes.

Ms. Terracio stated Council members would ask individuals to consider serving on the board, and by the time it got to Council, there would be a limited opportunity for who to appoint. She noted there is a

tendency to know the people you know and to ask those people to do things. She maintained her concern is how we ensure we not only go out and request individuals to serve but also encourage people to put themselves forward.

Ms. Mackey stated that when it comes to certain areas of economic or workforce development, we may know someone with expertise in a particular area. That person is not going to apply; we will have to inquire if they are interested in serving. With this board, we need individuals with technical background experience who will also be able to represent Council.

Ms. Newton asserted she fears that it will turn into this small, self-perpetuating group.

Ms. Barron inquired if the focus group had concluded their work.

Ms. Mackey responded in the affirmative.

- b. A Resolution authorizing the formation of a public-private partnership of economic development; approving the bylaws governing the business and activities of the public-private partnership; and other related matters – Ms. Mackey indicated the resolution would enable the County Administrator and Economic Development Director to begin working through the “nuts and bolts” to prepare us for the FY25-26 budget season.

Mr. Livingston moved to forward the resolution and bylaws to Council with a recommendation to approve them, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Livingston and Mackey

Opposed: Newton

The vote was in favor.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Newton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Livingston

In Favor: Livingston, Mackey, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:43 PM.