

**Economic Development Authority of Fluvanna County  
January 13, 2025**

**Attendance:**

Joshua Bower (p)  
Brittany Grey (p)  
Jeffrey Potter (p)

Valerie Palamountain (p)  
Rudy Garcia (p)

Charlotte Gregory (p)  
Raghvendra Singh (p)

County Staff:  
Jennifer Schmack (p)

**P - Present    A - Absent**

**I. Meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm.**

**II. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Potter. Seconded by Grey. Unanimously approved 6-0 by Bower, Grey, Palamountain, Potter, Singh, Garcia.

**III. Reports**

A. Schmack gave the County report for July:

1. Visits to existing business - 242
2. Partner Agencies, Networking Events, Conferences Attended - 215
3. Other - 207
4. Prospects/Real Estate inquiries - 50
5. Commercial Kitchen inquiries - 4
6. Commercial Kitchen Rentals - 2
7. Small Business Referrals - 16
8. Ribbon Cuttings - 9

Ribbon Cutting for The Barista Baker on January 17, 2025 at 9:00 am at E.W. Thomas.

Fluvanna Business Advisor on January 21, 2025.

Exhibit of Looking Back/Seeing Now portraits is February 2, 2025 at Fluvanna County Library.

Economic Development strategic plan update was presented to the Board of Supervisors.

Goal 1: Position Fluvanna County as a business-friendly county with competitive assets in the Central Virginia region.

- Reorganize and communicate steps of streamlined and standardized business permitting process to new and existing businesses in Fluvanna County. ACTIVE WITH DELIVERABLES.
- Design potential business incentive offerings in Fluvanna County. NOT STARTED
- Promote the Fluvanna County Shovel-Ready Sites. NOT STARTED

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- Continue to invest in key growth areas in Fluvanna County, including but not limited to Fork Union, Columbia, Palmyra and Zion Crossroads. ACTIVE WITH DELIVERABLES.

Goal 2: Foster entrepreneurship, business growth, and expansion in Fluvanna County through business retention efforts.

- Continue to collaborate at the regional level to provide programs and services; share resources and assets to reduce costs and improve quality. ACTIVE WITH DELIVERABLES.
- Formalize a County Business Retention and Expansion program. STARTED
- Create a business database of existing businesses for tracking business metrics in Fluvanna County. NOT STARTED
- Support, advocate, and promote the new community commercial kitchen. ACTIVE WITH DELIVERABLES.
- Explore entrepreneurial support opportunities such as the development of a cowering space, business incubator or maker space. PAUSED
- Work towards the creation of a new position geared towards marketing and tourism promotion and business retention. ACTIVE WITH DELIVERABLES
- Develop a comprehensive hazard mitigation plan for business within Fluvanna County. IN Progress.

Goal 3: Develop new and enhance existing tourism experiences, activities and events.

- Devise and implement shop local incentives and programs. ACTIVE WITH DELIVERABLES.
- Promote local tourism experiences in agritourism, viticulture, artisans, events, parks and outdoor recreation. ACTIVE WITH DELIVERABLES.
- Research and apply for grants to support tourism initiatives. ACTIVE WITH DELIVERABLES.

Goal 4: Support Fluvanna County businesses with talent recruitment and retention challenges.

- Establish partnerships with local educational institutions and workforce partners to develop a talent pipeline to fit local skills needs. ACTIVE WITH DELIVERABLES.
- Advocate for the Fluvanna County business community as the county addresses its infrastructure challenges. ACTIVE WITH DELIVERABLES.

Potter presented the draft of a Mission Statement for the EDA. The draft will be sent to the EDA members along with the strategic plan.

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- B. Chair's Report:  
1. No report.

**IV. Unfinished Business**

- A. None.

**V. New Business**

- A. Grey proposed to bring Kim Hyland of the Fluvanna/Louisa Housing to give a brief presentation of their services.

**VI. Public Comments**

- No public comments.

**VII. Closed Session**

- No closed session.

**VIII. Adjourn**

Motion made by Bower. Seconded by Potter. Approved 7-0 by Bower, Gregory, Grey, Palamountain, Potter, Garcia, Gregory. The meeting adjourned at 5:57 pm. The next meeting is February 10, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

**Valerie Palamountain**

Valerie Palamountain, Secretary