

Technology & Entrepreneurship Advisory
Board Minutes – March 20, 2025

1. Call to Order: Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
2. Roll Call: Chairman Richardson; Directors Pearson, Rhoades, Kennedy, and Bowman were present with Director Vellidis via teleconference.

Director Ritchie was absent.

Staff: Holly Wharton – Economic Development Director. Trey Hildebrand, IT Manager, and Joni Ary – Recording Clerk.

Guest(s): SunMark Bank – Mr. John Snellgrove and Ms. Tosha Tiencken.
3. Citizens with Input- None.
4. Presentation: Sunmark Bank presents the Technology & Entrepreneurship Advisory Board with a check for \$500.00 for the Speaker Series Seminar Sponsorship.
5. New Business
 - a. Approve February 20, 2025, Minutes
Director Rhoades motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Director Bowman seconded all in favor and was unanimously approved.
 - b. Approve February 2025 Financials
Director Rhoades motioned to approve the financial as submitted; Director Bowman seconded; all were in favor, and it was unanimously approved.
 - c. New Perry Resident Survey Update
Director Bowman stated that she and Director Kennedy would start working to clean up that data so that it would be possible to proceed with the survey.
 - d. Startup Week Debrief
Chairman Richardson stated there was a good turnout and was happy to see board members participate. To attract more youth to events, ask the Board to attend the Perry Youth Advisory Council meeting on Thursday, March 27th at 5 pm. Possibly consider having a Youth Summer Series event in late July. Ms. Wharton suggested possibly considering a conference format for the next event. Use the emails and sign-in sheets to get feedback on the events. Ms. Wharton stated she would draft letters to the people who sponsored or presented at the event thanking them.
 - e. Speaker Series Debrief

Ms. Wharton stated that the event was very interactive and very informative. The next series proposed a date in May with a presentative from UGA (Director Vellidis) and a presentative from Precision Ag to be held at the Go Fish venue. Ms. Wharton stated that the Grand Farms ribbon cutting will be held on May 2nd and will coincide with Georgia's 2nd Annual Integrative Precision Agricultural Conference held on May 1st at the Perry Events Center.

6. Staff Items

a. Discussion: Technology-related development.

Ms. Wharton asked for feedback from the board on an incentive policy for startup companies. Ms. Wharton will look at what incentives are currently available and will report back to the Board.

Ms. Wharton stated she received a call from Sparklite to see if there was an interest in having Downtown wifi. Ms. Wharton stated she would compile more information on the advantages and disadvantages for the Board to review.

Ms. Wharton congratulated Director Rhoades on his Defense Communities Champions National Award. Ms. Wharton congratulated Director Ritchie for the article in GaBiz Maganize highlighting Sigma Defense expansion and its impact on national defense.

7. Member Items:

None.

8. Adjournment – there being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Approved at 4.17.25 Meeting