

Technology & Entrepreneurship Advisory Board  
Minutes – April 17, 2025

1. Call to Order: Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.
2. Roll Call: Chairman Richardson; Directors Rhoades, Vellidis, Boman, and Ritchie were present with Director Kennedy via teleconference.

Director Pearson was absent.

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

Guest(s): Curtis Coates – Director of Leisure Services.

3. Citizens with Input -None.

4. New Business

- a. Approve March 20, 2025 Minutes

Director Rhoades motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Director Boman seconded all in favor and was unanimously approved.

- b. Approve December 2024 Financials

Director Rhoades motioned to approve the financials as submitted; Director Boman seconded; all were in favor, and it was unanimously approved.

- c. New Perry Resident Survey Update

Director Boman stated that she had sent out the survey for everyone to review and placed it on One Drive. Director Boman stated that she is looking for feedback and suggestions for additions and/or changes to the survey. The survey will go out during business hours with multiple reminders for the survey to be completed.

Director Boman will send it to all new Perry residents once feedback and/or additions have been made.

- d. Speaker Series Planning Update

Ms. Wharton stated that the next Speaker Series will be on June 5 from 5:30 pm to 7 pm at the GoFish Education Center. The speaker series will feature the Grand Farm Regional Director Kaytlyn Cobb and UGA Professor Dr. George Vellidis. Director Rhoades stated he would happily welcome all Technology and Entrepreneurship Board members and introduce the speakers for the event.

Ms. Wharton stated she would like to have another Speaker Series in July but may have to postpone due to leaving on maternity leave. However, would like the Board to decide on the topic, speaker, and audience for the next series.

e. Update on Technology-Based Incentive policy.

Director Kennedy stated that she has been working diligently on creating the policy and has identified objectives to promote small to large business enterprises. Director Kennedy has reviewed the City of Perry's demographics and has started looking into available land that may be desired by future businesses. The next step will be identifying specific businesses in those areas/categories. Director Kennedy and Ms. Wharton will work on putting together incentives available through the City of Perry.

f. Integrative Precision Agriculture Conference.

Director Vellidis stated that over 125 people have registered for the conference. The conference will begin at 8:30 am for registration and coffee. The conference is to connect UGA graduate students with the industry and include representatives from Ft. Valley State University and Georgia Institute of Technology or anyone interested in precision agriculture. The conference will coincide with the groundbreaking of the UGA Grand Farm on May 2nd. There will be demos onsite after the groundbreaking ceremony. On the second day of the conference, they will visit the Museum of Aviation, of which 65 people have already registered.

5. Staff Items

a. Monthly Updates.

Ms. Wharton stated that the City of Perry Leisure Services is working on their summer class schedule and could potentially include the Youth Entrepreneurship summer camp class. The director of Leisure Services, Mr. Curtis, stated he would like to add the summer camp and needs some more logistics about the summer camp.

Chairman Richardson said he would like to incorporate his book "When Life Gives You Lemons, Make a Lemonade Stand" to give out signed copies and possibly have a lemonade stand. Director Ritchie said it would be nice to have it downtown during the City of Perry Fourth of July event. Ms. Wharton stated that due to her leaving soon on maternity leave, she would like to postpone scheduling those events until she returns.

Chairman Richardson stated he would still like to attend and help Leisure Services summer camps. Director Rhoades stated he would like to partner with Leisure Services summer camps and the Museum of Aviation. Director of Leisure Services Mr. Coates stated he will send the Board a schedule of this year's Summer camps.

Ms. Wharton stated that the Youth Advisory Board meeting was canceled; unfortunately, that was their last meeting for the year.

The Digital Learning link has been sent to thirteen people, but they have not started the program yet. Ms. Wharton is meeting with the company next week to work on proactive engagement.

Ms. Wharton stated that this meeting was her last, and she will begin maternity leave on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

6. Member Items:

None.

7. Adjournment – there being no further business to come before the Board, Director Rhoades motioned to adjourn the meeting, Director Ritchie seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.