

**MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING -
SANFORD AREA GROWTH ALLIANCE,
LEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TOWN OF BROADWAY COMMISSIONERS,
and SANFORD CITY COUNCIL**

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.
Oakland Farms Venue - 3355 Rosser Road, Bear Creek, NC

The Sanford City Council, Lee County Board of Commissioners, and Town of Broadway Commissioners met with members of the Sanford Area Growth Alliance (SAGA) Executive Committee and staff at the Oakland Farms Venue, located at 3355 Rosser Road, Sanford, North Carolina, on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. The following people from the City of Sanford were present:

City:

Mayor T. Chet Mann
Council Member Byron Buckels
Council Member Jimmy Haire
Council Member James Williams
City Attorney Susan Patterson
Management Analyst Holly Marosites
Deputy City Clerk Vicki Cannady

Mayor Pro Tem Rebecca Salmon
Council Member Sam Gaskins
Council Member Norman “Chas” Post, III
City Manager Hal Hegwer
City Finance Director Beth Kelly
City Clerk Bonnie Davis

Absent: Council Member Charles Taylor

Mayor Mann called the meeting to order for the City of Sanford. (Lee County Commissioner Chair Amy Dalrymple called the meeting to order for Lee County and Broadway Mayor Donald Andrews called the meeting to order for the Town of Broadway.) Bob Joyce, Economic Development Executive Director for the Sanford Area Growth Alliance (SAGA), welcomed and thanked everyone for supporting SAGA, noting that the meeting was an opportunity to share information and make any adjustments needed to maintain focus.

SAGA UPDATE (Exhibits A and B)

Michael Smith, Chief Executive Officer for SAGA, thanked everyone for their support and announced that the next All Boards meeting is planned for January 22, 2020. While he has been with SAGA only about six months, he reminded everyone that it was formed ten years ago to help market Lee County, Sanford, and Broadway. He announced that SAGA had met all of its goals for 2018 and is now working on Chamber accreditation. A video showing the “spec” building at Central Carolina Enterprise Park (described on the attached Exhibit A) was played and he stressed the building’s importance in marketing our area. Highlights from SAGA’s 2018 annual report (attached as Exhibit B) were highlighted and he invited everyone to the upcoming Business Showcase scheduled for April 30 at the Civic Center and the Chamber’s annual golf tournament scheduled for June at Carolina Trace. Mr. Smith also announced that plans are underway to begin the second phase of fundraising in May.

LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS UPDATE

Dr. Andy Bryan, Superintendent of Lee County Schools, stated that the Board of Education’s goal is for all students to graduate from our area high schools with “more than just a diploma”. Students are encouraged to choose from several options: earning at least one college credit; earning

a specialty certification from one of several academies (finance, engineering, hospitality and tourism) credentials from companies such as Microsoft or Adobe; or developing skills that can help them enter the workforce successfully. He noted that our graduation rate has increased from 63 percent back in 2007 to more than 90 percent (higher than the state average). He acknowledged the success of the Caterpillar apprentice program and Lee Early College (which offers a high school diploma and Associates Degree in five years). Dr. Bryan also acknowledged great partnerships with local companies, non-profit agencies, governing bodies and community support, which all combine to help make Lee County students successful.

AIRPORT (Exhibit C)

Bob Heuts, Raleigh Executive Airport Director, thanked everyone for the opportunity to represent our community at the airport. He shared a video highlighting aviation's importance to the state's economic development and shared statistics on the airport illustrating its contribution to our community. He reported that sewer service is being extended to the airport and construction of the new terminal is well underway. He invited everyone to visit the airport that serves as a "front door" for our community, noting that it is truly a regional facility that serves not only Lee County but other nearby areas as well, and thanked everyone for their support.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TDA) UPDATE (Exhibit D)

Chairman Kevin Brown reported that one of his first assignments as new board chairman was meeting with SAGA leadership to develop an approach for promoting Lee County, Sanford, and Broadway. A group of ten recently represented our area at the "Visit NC" conference, which was the largest contingent other than Charlotte. He also reported that a site selectors' conference will be held at the Civic Center this fall and a film crew is scheduled to visit soon to produce a 30-minute program. He stated that he is on the steering committee for the proposed Multi-Sports Complex and expressed hope that a site will soon be established for a TDA office space and Visitors' Center.

CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPDATE (Exhibit E)

CCCC President Dr. Lisa Chapman stated that she was honored to have recently been named President of the college and was very proud of the community support. She shared information on CCCC as shown on the attached Exhibit D and noted that while enrollment typically drops during positive economic periods, enrollment at CCCC is outpacing the other 18 community colleges in the state similar to it. Programs for construction, welding, air conditioning/heating/refrigeration, mechanical engineering and electrical systems are very popular and vital to the workforce. Programs have been modified and they have added digital broadcasting and podcasting to the long-established broadcasting program, and medical sonography and a second-year health and fitness science program have been added to the health-related curriculum. CCCC is a leader in customized training and these programs, which are funded through the state, benefit several local businesses, including Caterpillar, Coty, Conveyor Technologies, GKN, Magneti Marelli, Pentair, Pilgrims' Pride, and Zurn Industries. The Small Business Center offers valuable services to the community and dual-enrollment programs are very popular. She noted that there have been phenomenal improvements to the campus, with the addition of the Keller Health Sciences Building, the Dalrymple Veterinary Medical Technology Building, expanded civic center, and large animal facility currently under design. Dr. Chapman stressed the importance of directing students toward paths for economic prosperity and providing the support needed for their success.

TOWN OF BROADWAY

Mayor Don Andrews thanked everyone for their support of Broadway and reported that a company from Holly Springs will be purchasing a building on Main Street. He expressed excitement to be part of an area with an unlimited future.

CITY OF SANFORD

Mayor Chet Mann suggested that the return on investment is just being seen in our community; we are all working on one cohesive puzzle and all parties are winning. He encouraged everyone to visit the city's website and read his "Open for Business" agenda. He reminded everyone of several successful projects: the Buggy Company building as a "one stop shop" (with Planning/Inspections/GIS departments, SAGA offices); the public/private partnership that allowed for development of CCEP; the recently created TDA; leveraging our water and sewer service capacity to extend service to the airport, CCEP, Pittsboro, and Chatham County; public arts projects; plans to renovate the Depot Building; plans with the county to create a state-of-the-art 21st century multi-sport complex; plans to make Sanford more pedestrian friendly with expanded greenways; the new splashpad and renovations to the Kiwanis Family Park; updating the Land Use Plan and Unified Development Ordinance; Citizens Academy; National Night Out; and our Streetfest celebration that showcases Sanford. He thanked everyone for their leadership and encouraged everyone to continue working together to better our community.

LEE COUNTY

Lee County Board of Commissioners Chair Amy Dalrymple recognized fellow board members and staff. She stated that her term as a commissioner began just as the economic slowdown hit in 2008 and the board had to prioritize budget cuts, making her appreciate where we are today even more. She thanked everyone for their collaborative efforts and noted that everyone shares the common goal of making life better for our citizens.

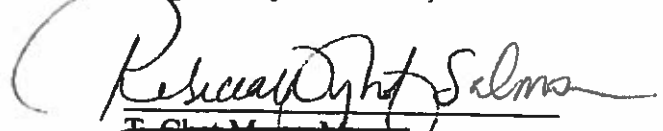
SAGA (Exhibit F)

Executive Committee Chairman Kirk Bradley thanked SAGA's public partners, the City of Sanford, Lee County and Town of Broadway. He referred a "Quality of Life" matrix (attached as Exhibit F) showing several "quality-of-life" factors as ranked in 2008 in the Lee County Second Century Project and this year's SAGA rankings, and noted that strides have been made in most categories. He highlighted some of the improvements and suggested that we are seeing the benefits of working together and making investments in our community.


ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Buckels made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Council Member Gaskins, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,


F. Chet Mann, Mayor
Rebecca Wyhof Salmon,
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


Bonnie Davis, City Clerk
Vicki R. Connady,
Deputy City Clerk