

**Minutes
Legislation and Policy Committee Meeting
Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership
December 6, 2023
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**901 East Cary Street
James Center One, Katherine Johnson Room, 7th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219**

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Radcliff called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

In-Person Committee Members: Chair Marianne Radcliff, Carrie Chenery, John Hewa, Nick Rush, and Steven Stone

Committee Members Absent: Nancy Howell Agee and Anne Oman

Other In-Person Board Members: Secretary Stephen Cummings, Stephen Edwards, Rick Harrell, Bill Hayter, Pace Lochte, and Secretary Caren Merrick

VEDP staff present: Stephanie Agee, Lesley Brown Greg Burkart, Star Cranston, Nicole David, Jason El Koubi, Stef Florie, Stephen Hartka, Chris Hughes Heather McKay, Nicole Riley, Vickie Tilkey, Lisa Wallmeyer, and Abigail Wescott

Virtual VEDP Staff: Blake Omohundro and Carrie Vuori

Guests present: Kendra Shifflett

Public Comment Period

Chair Radcliff asked if any members of the public wished to comment. There were none.

Approval of Minutes for September 13, 2023

Chair Radcliff requested approval of the September 13, 2023, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Chenery and seconded by Mr. Hewa, and the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Election Update

Chair Radcliff spoke about the Virginia general election in November, where all 140 General Assembly seats were up for re-election. She said the election resulted in Democrats gaining majorities in both the House and the Senate.

Chair Radcliff noted that 670 years of service was lost with this set of elections and redistricting decisions.

Chair Radcliff introduced Nicole Riley to provide an overview of the election results and changes in leadership for key committees.

Ms. Riley reviewed the following election highlights:

- Democrat control of both Chambers
 - House Chamber: Democrats 51/ Republicans 49
 - Senate Chamber: Democrats 21/Republicans 19
- Turnout was ~41% statewide, which is in line with the last off-year election
- Virginia is in its third year of allowing early voting, with ~32% of citizens casting ballots during early voting this election cycle.

House Leadership

- Don Scott, House Speaker-Elect, is the first African American Speaker in Virginia.
- Charnele Herring, Majority Leader
- Todd Gilbert, Minority Leader
- Israel O'Quinn, Deputy Minority Leader

House Committee Leadership

- Luke Torian, Chair of House Appropriations
- Jeion Ward, Chair of Labor and Commerce Committee
- Vivian Watts, Chair of House Finance

Secretary Merrick noted that Governor Youngkin has hosted General Assembly leadership at the Executive Mansion and is actively building relationships with this group.

Senate Leadership

- Scott Surovell, Majority Leader
- Ryan McDougle, Minority Leader
- Mamie Locke, Democratic Caucus Chair
- Mark Obenshain, Republican Caucus Chair

Senate Committee Leadership

- Louise Lucas, Chair of Senate Finance & Appropriations
- Creigh Deeds, Chair of Commerce & Labor
- Adam Ebbin, Chair of General Laws and Technology

Ms. Riley stated that with a lot of these new appointments there will likely be a shift in power and more focus on the Hampton Roads region.

Closed Session:

Update on Budget and Legislative Proposals; Update on Legislator Materials and Outreach Plan

A motion was made by Mr. Rush and seconded by Mr. Stone to move into a closed meeting. The members unanimously approved the motion shown below.

I move that the Legislative and Policy Committee convene a closed meeting to discuss specific strategies pursuant to Subdivision A 50 of §2.2-3711 of the Code Virginia, which allows for the discussion of activities related to the strategic plan, operational plan, and marketing plan that would reveal to the Commonwealth's competitors for economic development projects the strategies intended to be deployed by the Commonwealth.

Back in Open Meeting, Certification of Closed Meeting – Followed by a Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Wallmeyer read the following certification and then conducted a roll call vote:

Do you certify that to the best of your knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of FOIA were discussed in the closed meeting, and (ii) only such matters as were identified in the motion to go into the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting?

Upon the vote:	Ms. Radcliff	Aye
	Ms. Chenery	Aye
	Mr. Hewa	Aye
	Mr. Rush	Aye
	Mr. Stone	Aye

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Radcliff adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lesley Brown