



**Steel Valley  
Authority**

# Advisory Board Meeting Minutes September 18, 2019 - 6:00 pm Square Café, Swissvale PA



**SEWN**

## ATTENDANCE

**Board:**

Clairton	
Duquesne	
East Pittsburgh	Tom Michlovic
Glassport	
Homestead	
McKeesport	Lori Schmidt – Eric Pferdekamper – Tom Maglicco
Munhall	
Pittsburgh	Rob Witherell – Sabina Dietrick
Rankin	
Swissvale	Chris Casavale – Jeffrey Schaffer – Amy Starrett
Turtle Creek	Colleen Wooten
West Homestead	

**Proxy Votes:** Chuck Bennett – Chair  
Moshe Marvit – Chair

**Staff:** Tom Croft; Carrie Mihalko; Bob Value

**Solicitor:** Jay Hornack, Healy & Hornack

**Guests:** Jennifer Nestor (DLI Oversight) and Michelle (Rapid Response)

Chairwoman Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

## PROXY VOTE REVIEW – CHAIRWOMAN LORI SCHMIDT

The Board Chair recognized to the board members that a quorum was in order to conduct business.

## MINUTES

Copies of the minutes were made available in member packets.

*The minutes of the May, 2019 meeting were approved on motion by Chris Casavale and seconded by Tom Michlovic. The motion passed unanimously by members Schmidt, Maglicco, Witherell, Dietrick, Schaffer, Starrett, Witherell, and Wooten, with no abstentions.*

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chris Casavale reviewed the financial statements. He noted the Accounts Receivable sits at around \$200,000 due to a delay in receiving the NOO from DL&I. The P/L statement shows that when averaged out, SVA will meet the revenue budget for 2019.

*The Finance Committee report was approved on a motion by Tom Michlovic and seconded by Amy Starrett. The motion passed unanimously by Casavale, Schaffer, Schmidt, Maglicco, Witherell, Dietrick, and Wooten with no abstentions.*

## **SECRETARY REPORT**

Amy Starrett highlighted several pieces of correspondence provided to all members. Tom Croft provided additional commentary on the letter to the U.S. Department of Labor on Layoff Averson.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Tom Michlovic deferred to Jay Hornack to comment on the new collective bargaining agreement for the employees. Two small changes were proposed and accepted by all parties. The committee approved the changes and sent it to Executive Committee for approval.

Carrie Mihalko provided an overview of the current staffing changes taking place including the hiring of two new part-time Outreach positions while Bob Value discussed the replacement of the Southwest Regional Director.

*The Personnel Committee report was approved on a motion by Chris Casavale and seconded by Amy Starrett. The motion passed unanimously by Michlovic, Schaffer, Schmidt, Maglicco, Witherell, Dietrick, and Wooten with no abstentions.*

## **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Jeffrey Schaffer addressed the need for more board members and changes to the membership. They will also arrange a conference call within the next few weeks to discuss new funding efforts.

*The Development Committee report was approved on a motion by Chris Casavale and seconded by Amy Starrett. The motion passed unanimously by Michlovic, Schaffer, Schmidt, Maglicco, Witherell, Dietrick, and Wooten with no abstentions.*

## **PROGRAM/TECH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Rob Witherell discussed the need to make changes in the by-laws once again to address concerns from DL&I Oversight. Changes would reflect the number of required members. Jay Hornack advised that the committee needs to review the articles of incorporation related to municipal seats. This issue will be further discussed by the committee.

*The Tech Review Committee report was approved on a motion by Chris Casavale and seconded by Jeff Schaffer. The motion passed unanimously by Michlovic, Schmidt, Maglicco, Witherell, Dietrick, and Wooten with no abstentions.*

## **STAFF REPORT**

Tom Croft provided the Executive Director Report noting the following highlights:

- Steel Cities Capital Roundtable event in August including discussions with State Treasurer Joe Torsella and possible funding opportunities for Mon-Valley projects
  - Tom Michlovic asked if this could be duplicated in other areas – it is hopeful if additional funding is provided. PNC funded this particular project
- Meetings with local staffers and organizations to provide updated education materials on the SEWN program
- The Labor Capital Fellowship completed its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the program
- Policy research on layoff aversion is continuing with The Century Foundation. They are currently conducting a survey on industrial policy and layoff aversion around the country. This is to support the ongoing revitalizing manufacturing communities project.

Bob Value provided the following highlights on SEWN:

- Completed program year 2018-19 saving over 1470 jobs – also assisted 10 alumni clients who were not counted in that number
- Numbers are low right now but anticipate an increase soon
- Will be hiring for a new Southwest Regional Director
- Deb Lutz, Erie Director, recently completed her Certified Turnaround Analyst designation
- Witnessing certain sectors (hardwood, steel jobs shops) facing issues
- Rob Witherell commented on the GM strike and its trickle down to the supply chains – SEWN is aware and watching

Carrie Mihalko provided the following highlights:

- Hiring overview
- Outreach efforts and how the board can help
- Looking for opportunities for introductions, speaking engagements, conference participation (i.e., SEWN already presents at the Steelworkers conferences)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**No old business to report.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**No new business to report.**

**The formal meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.**