Alabama Space Authority
Regular Meeting
August 8, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.
Airbus: Flight Works Alabama
Mobile, Alabama

Senator Sam Givhan, Chair, presiding and Ms. Daphne Ball, Energy Special Project Unit Chief with the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), recording the minutes.

Prior notice of the meeting was given on July 30, 2025 in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Call to Order:
Chairman Givhan called the meeting to order at 10:10 A.M. and requested that Ms. Ball conduct the roll call.

Roll Call
Members Present: 8
Senator Sam Givhan, Chairman
Dr. William T. Hutto
Lt. Gen. Thomas Todd
Mr. Luther Roberts
Ms. Jennifer Lee for Mr. Kenneth Boswell
Mr. Frank Farmer for Mr. John Cooper
Senator Chris Elliott
Nicholas Taylor for Mr. Bill Poole

Members Absent: 3
Dr. Charles Karr
Ms. Ellen McNair
Dr. Daniel K. Wims

With 8 members in attendance, Ms. Ball confirmed a quorum has been met.

Visitors: 2
Ms. Daphne Ball
Mr. Robert La Branche

Welcome and Remarks

Chairman Givhan welcomed the members and visitors.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Givhan asked if there is a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on May 2, 2025. Lt. Gen Todd made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. Chairman Givhan asked if there was any discussion. With no discussion, Chairman Givhan asked all in favor of approving the minutes to say aye. The members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Reports and Presentations:

Presentation by Mr. Robert La Branche, U.S. Space and Rocket Center - Mr. La Branche started off his presentation addressing the Center's CEO, Dr. Kimberly Robinson, retiring and how they are currently searching for a replacement. Mr. La Branche then talked about the future of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. The U.S. Space and Rocket Center, a Commission of the State of Alabama, serves as the official visitor center for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, a Smithsonian affiliate, and a partner of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Since opening in 1970, it has welcomed visitors from all 50 states and 150 countries, becoming Alabama's top paid tourist attraction. It is internationally recognized as home to Space Camp, the world's largest and longest-running STEM camp, with over one million alumni. Through programs like Space Camp, Aviation Challenge, Robotics, and Cyber Camp, the Center inspires students toward STEM careers while supporting national workforce development.

Educational initiatives such as the SALSA program, Space Academy for Educators, and the Alabama Aerospace Fellowship expand access to STEM learning for Alabama students and teachers. Following the challenges of COVID-19, the Center is preparing a major Space Camp relaunch for its 45th anniversary in 2027. This includes facility upgrades like the $20M Space Camp Operations Center and the forthcoming Inspiration4 Skills Training Complex, supported by astronaut Jared Isaacman's $25M donation. The new Project Astra mission floor will introduce cutting-edge lunar and Martian simulations, ensuring the Center continues to inspire and educate future generations of explorers.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Next Meeting: Tuscaloosa, AL

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:53 A.M.

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer B. Lee 11-12-2025
Jennifer B. Lee, Recording Secretary Date

Minutes approved by: _____
Senator Sam Givhan, Chairman Date