**Minutes**

**Alabama Space Authority**

**Meeting  
  
February 16, 2021**

Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs

Webinar

**Call to Order:**   
11:00 A.M.  
  
**Welcome Remarks**

Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call**

Present: 8  
Dr. Dale Thomas  
Dr. William Hutto

Greg Canfield

Kenneth Boswell  
Tim Crosby

Frank Farmer (Dr. John Eagerton Retired)

Luther Roberts

Senator Steve Livingston, Chair

Visitors:13Lucia Cape

Keith Davis

Robert Grissim

Robert La Branche  
Maureen Neighbors

Lee Jankowski  
Ben Johnson Maxar

Joe Ritch

Kimberly Robinson  
Michael Ward  
Naveen Vetcha  
Elaine Fincannon

Cassandra Hawthorne

Via call-in: 1

**Minutes**

Motion to approve by Senator Livingston.

Minutes were approved with the agreement change Space Port to Space Authority.

Vote called – unanimous.

**Reports and Presentations**

**Presentation by Joe Ritch, Chair, Redstone Regional Alliance**. Mr. Ritch presented a PowerPoint Presentation on the Redstone Regional Alliance, the United States (U.S.) Space Command Space Headquarters (HQ) (attached).

**Question:** Greg Canfield asked about engaging with the board

**Response:** Joe Ritch suggested they wait.

**Discussion:** Robert LaBranche: Presented two different resolutions. The only difference is one is much shorter than the other. Also, there was one change in the last sentence from unsuitable to far less suitable. This was done because the other sites just simply were not found on the same level as Redstone Arsenal.

Greg Canfield: deferred to Joe Ritch and Mike Ward on the resolution because they are the experts.

Joe Ritch: Mr. Ritch suggested verbiage should not be negative toward other applicants.

Senator Livingston: He would like to give everyone an opportunity to look over the resolution. Therefore, it will be taken up at the next meeting. He will also make sure that everyone receives a copy.

**Presentation by Kimberly Robinson, Executive Director and CEO, US Space and Rocket Center.** Ms. Robinson stated that, as an Alabama native, it is a dream of hers to have the opportunity to serve as CEO for the Rocket Center. She provided information about Rocket Center and how it is the number one tourist attraction in the State of Alabama. She discussed issues due to COVID, but that camps are sold out. She also said they would be happy to host a future meeting at the Rocket Center.

**Presentation by Dr. Burke, President, Calhoun Community College (Presented by Keith Davis)**. Mr. Davis works with the Aerospace program. They teach technicians about anything regarding flight hardware. This includes mechanical and electrical assembly, composites manufacturing, and bonding methods. The Boeing, Lockheed, AECI, and Griffin are companies who hire their technicians. They are currently developing new programs and are working with Madison City Schools on training some of their students to obtain hands-on experience before they graduate.

**Questions:** Senator Livingston: How many students do you currently have in the program?

**Response:** Keith Davis: Calhoun Community College has around 80 students in the program. Right now, they do not offer dual enrollment. That is why they are in collaboration with the Madison City Schools Systems. They are turning out about 30 a year. However, with some of the changes they are making; they hope to increase in numbers soon.

**Presentation by Robert Grissim, Director of Workforce Development, Drake State.** Mr. Grissim’s presentation was based on Drake State’s collaboration with NASA, CANS Program. In September 2020, Drake State was the first community college to receive Cooperative Agreement from NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC). They anticipate about 788 related jobs within 100-mile radius with a salary range of $54,371 with an associate degree.

**Old Business**

None.

**Next Meeting**The next meeting will be held June 2021. The announcement of exact time and location will be announced later.

**Adjourn**11:54 A.M.

Prepared by Cassandra Hawthorne

ASA Unit Chief