Alabama Space Authority
Regular Meeting
July 31, 2024 at 2:00 P.M.
U.S. Space & Rocket Center
Education Training Facility, 2nd Floor
1 Tranquility Base
Huntsville, AL 35805

Senator Sam Givhan, Chairman, presiding and Ms. Jennifer Lee, Energy Division Chief with the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), recording the minutes.

Prior notice of the meeting was given on July 23, 2024 in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Call to Order:
Chairman Givhan called the meeting to order at 2:02 P.M. and requested that Ms. Lee conduct the roll call.

Roll Call
Members Present: 8
Senator Sam Givhan, Chair
Dr. Kimberly Robinson, Vice Chair
Dr. William T. Hutto, Jr (joined virtually)
Dr. Daniel Wims
Mr. Kenneth W. Boswell
Major General (Ret.) Tim Crosby
Mr. Jordan Howard for Mr. Bill Poole
Mr. Luther Roberts

Members Absent: 4
Dr. Charles Karr
Senator Chris Elliott
Mr. John Cooper
Ms. Ellen McNair

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

Visitors: 8

Jennifer Lee
Daphne Ball
Mr. Robert La Branche
Lucia Cape (joined virtually)
Mike Ward (joined virtually)
Annabel Roth Martinson (joined virtually)
Representative Lomac

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 March 5, 2024.

Mr. Boswell 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, Vice President of External Affairs at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center- Aerospace Internship Program - Mr. La Branche stated that Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth started program in Alabama four years ago, modeled after Colorado whose had similar program for 11 years. At least 215 students from Alabama have gone through the program. Mr. La Branche went on to state the program is two-weeks long, with one week being virtual. The purpose of this program is to present aerospace as a possible career path for students who may not have known about aerospace. The program has plans on working with Lockheed Martin and the State to help grow the program in the future. The Alabama program was held July 15-19, 2024 at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center and partnered with several companies such as Lockheed Martin, NASA, Huntsville Madison County Chamber, and the University of Alabama Huntsville. Program dates for 2025 have not been announced, but there is a plan to increase their scope.

Presentation by Dr. Kimberly Robinson, CEO/Executive Director of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center - Dr. Robinson gave an overview of the recent events at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, including a ribbon cutting for the newly restored Rocket Row at Rocket Park, which was made possible by the funding of Fred Luddy, who first visited the center when his son attended Space Camp. Additionally, Dr. Robinson summarized a selection of the numerous offerings for students and young professionals, including Building Leaders with Adaptive Skills for Tomorrow (BLAST), Space Academy for Leading Students in Alabama (SALSA), and a 60% tuition discount for Alabama students who visit as a part of an Alabama group. Dr. Robinson also detailed the growing campus of the center and satellite sites, including the Inspiration Skills Training Complex, which is currently under construction and the exterior construction of their new building connecting the Davidson Center and the museum.

Chairman Givhan stated this has been on his mind as he's coming back from Energy counsel – he wants to solicit ideas from those present in person or virtually, ideas on visiting companies around the state and having speakers for it.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Next Meeting: November in Decatur, AL

Adjourn: With no other business, Chairman Givhan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Boswell motioned. Mr. Crosby seconded the motion. Chairman Givhan adjourned the meeting at 3:14 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer B. Lee 11-20-2024
Jennifer B. Lee, Recording Secretary Date

Minutes approved by: 11-20-2024
Senator Sam Givhan, Chairman Date