CALL TO ORDER

The Board was called to order at 3:34 p.m. in the conference room of the UCF Business Incubator on Thursday, June 29, 2023.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Edith Shelley
Kevin Manley
Stephanie Miller
Ricardi Calixte

Members Absent:
Tom Daly
Jeff Badovick
Lou Paris

STAFF PRESENT:
Connie Garzon, Director, Volusia County Business Incubator
Rob Panepinto, Senior Strategic Advisor - Partnerships and Innovation, UCF
Asianna Mashore, Program Assistant, Volusia County Business Incubator
Ricardi Calixte, Business Specialist, Volusia County Economic Development

INTRODUCTION:

Connie Garzon welcomes the board members.

Motion:

Connie asks board to approve the minutes for the advisory board meeting held on March 24, 2023. Edith makes motion to approve, seconded by Kevin Manley
- Minutes approved with all in favor.

Presentations:

Rob Panepinto – Co-Director of UCF Business Incubation Program/
Director, Innovation Districts Strategy and Partnerships and Senior Strategic Advisor

UCF business incubation update:
- Expanding into Eustis, Lake County expected around Mid-August; Seeking to hire a site manager
- Mentorship program; Cohort of team of incubator clients and link them with a team of mentors for a 6-month program
- Leadership development, executive coaching, one-on-one type coaching; pilot program rolled out earlier this year with 20 companies
- UCF team to present to Volusia County Council; discuss 3-year renewal contract
Ms. Connie Garzon
- Funds to be used for updating Maker Lab equipment
- Previews presentation to be made to County Council
- 887 jobs created since inception with more to come
- WOW Fridays series growing in participation.
- Six new incubator clients between January-June 2023; about 90 applications, but many are not a good fit

Client Showcase - Bibe – Steven Rehrig
“Find a problem, create a solution, and make a business out of it”
- Innovation Challenge participant
- App company
- Streamline process to efficiently take customer orders at bars

Connie will help Bibe with developing their marketing strategy and try to connect Bibe to potential investors.

Board Discussion:

- Connie Discusses maker lab expansion budget. She is seeking improvements in spacing and new equipment including new printers and audio/video tools for podcasting.
- Kevin suggest exploring other uses for funds, as the proportion of client usage of maker lab may be minimal in relations to overall client needs.
- Stephanie Miller outside companies are allowed to use maker lab space/equipment for a fee if large investment is made into new equipment
- Connie express interest in using some funds for tech upgrades
- Board members discussed other tools that may be valuable to clients such as software for marketing

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2023, 3PM – 4:30PM. *(updated to 3:30 PM- 5PM post-meeting)*

**ADJOURN AT 5 P.M.**