

ELLENSBURG BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
dba CenterFuse
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, June 27, 2019 - 12:00 pm
City Hall – Council Conference Room
501 N. Anderson Street, Ellensburg

In attendance: John Perrie, Jared Vallejo, Steve Townsend, Linda Schactler, James Jankowski, Grant Clark, Garrett Poshusta, and staff Carolyn Honeycutt.
Also in attendance: Kirsten Sackett, Community Development Director and community member, Mollie Edson.

Excused absence: Jamie Rosen, Bill Provaznik

Chair Schactler called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM

Motion to approve June 27, 2019 Agenda. Vallejo; second Townsend.
Approved.

Board Business

1. Subcommittee Reports:
 - a. SpaceForce – Incubator Analysis and Discussion – The board discussed the history and return on investment of the Ellensburg Business Incubator. According to available records, in the 30 years since its establishment, board staff could find only two businesses that were successfully “incubated” at the facility and have remained in business in Ellensburg.

The Board also discussed potential uses of the facility, and the place of incubators in today’s economy. Board agreed that in order to run the facility like a true incubator, CenterFuse would need to do more than property management. Industry research and experience shows that the success of a business incubator requires support services, from marketing to management training. Incubators are really a program and not just a building. The data does not show that incubator companies are more successful than non-incubator companies.

SpaceForce will move forward with analyzing the market value of both Incubator and Airport facility and analysis of potential redevelopment projects. Analysis and recommendation will come back to CenterFuse for next action steps. Recommendation for Incubator building would then go to City Council.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 1:00 PM

Drafted: 7/2/19

Approved: