

World Trade Center Delaware
Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors
November 17, 2021 - 2:00 p.m.
HYBRID – In Person and Zoom

World Trade Center Delaware held its regular meeting of the Board of Directors on November 17, 2021 in a hybrid mode. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. ET by the Chair of WTC Delaware, Charlie Tomlinson.

The following members of the Board, who constituted a quorum, were present/on the call:

Kathryn Bradley (on behalf of GT USA Wilmington), Carmen Facciolo, Howard Henderson, Lisa Himber, George Kearns, Theophilus R. Nix, Jr., Esq, Senator Nicole Poore, Representative Michael Ramone, Andrew Silverman (by proxy), Charlie Tomlinson

Absent:

Michael Griffin, Brian McGlinchey, Anabel Panayotti

Staff:

Carla Stone, Nesrin Cakiroglu

Introductory Remarks

Chair Tomlinson opened the meeting at 2:06 p.m. by thanking everyone for attending. He introduced our new board member, Ms. Lisa Himber, the new president of the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River & Bay. Ms. Himber is taking our former board member Dennis Rochford's place.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for the WTC Delaware's October 6, 2021 Board meeting were presented by Chair Tomlinson for review and approval. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting minutes of the October 6, 2021 Board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

President Stone and Treasurer Kearns provided an overview regarding the status of WTC Delaware's finances and expenditures. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the financials and expenditures were approved.

Chair Report

As previously discussed, Chair Tomlinson is looking for volunteers from the board members to form these committees listed below:

- **Audit**
 - Volunteered to serve: George Kearns
- **Governance and Development**
 - Volunteered to serve: Andrew Silverman, Rep. Michael Ramone
- **Nominations / Board Development**
 - Volunteered to serve: Carmen Facciolo, George Kearns
- **Membership**
 - Volunteered to serve: Rep. Michael Ramone
- **Gala**
 - Volunteered to serve: George Kearns, Brian McGlinchey

Chair Tomlinson is waiting to hear from the rest of the board members in terms of their willingness to serve in these committees.

ADVISORY BOARD: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the board approved to form an Advisory Board who would meet at least once a year.

INTERNATIONAL DELAWARE: This year's International Delaware is highlighting the state's Science & Technology industry and showing why companies from all over the world want to establish their businesses in Delaware and buy our products and services. The fifth edition of International Delaware Magazine will be released the first week of December 2021.

President's Report

President Stone provided updates on the WTC Delaware's operations and most recent workstreams.

GALA: WTC Delaware Gala will be held on December 9th with Secretary of State Jeff Bullock confirmed as the Champion of Trade 2020/21 Honoree. Senator Thomas Carper is our Honorary Co-Chair. Also attending will be the Prime Minister of the Bahamas and the Trade Minister from Botswana, both of whom will come to Delaware to discuss areas in common such as finance and foreign trade zone development. Dignitaries from many other countries also will attend.

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS:

Getting Ready to Enter International Business -October 12, 2021 – WTC Delaware presented a live webinar, also available online, for the Delaware Black Chamber of Commerce.

European Union Ambassadors Visit, Port of Wilmington- October 18: WTC Delaware served on the planning committee and made a live, in-person presentation to delegation of Ambassadors from EU countries, and members of the Delaware international business and Port community. The guests received a tour of the Port followed by presentations from Joe Cruise, CEO, GT USA Wilmington; Beth Pomper, State of Delaware; Michael Quaranta, President, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce; and Carla Stone, President, WTC Delaware.

Mid-Atlantic Summit Featuring President Biden – November 15, 2021: WTC Delaware partnered with the US Global Leadership Coalition and several other international groups for the fifth consecutive year to offer the *2021 Virtual Mid-Atlantic Regional Summit*. This dynamic discussion featuring America’s leaders highlighted the positive impact of global affairs programs in the Mid-Atlantic region. President Biden was the keynote speaker. Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) and Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) were among several other notable presenters. At the suggestion of WTC Delaware, Neeraj Batta, SVP of WTC Delaware member BATT Environmental Associates, was selected to make a presentation on the importance of international trade on his company.

WTCA Member Forum – November 15-19, 2021: Members of WTC Delaware were invited to attend the World Trade Centers Association’s 2021 Member Forum: “The New (Virtual) Reality of Business” which took place Monday, November 15 through Friday, November 19, 2021. This year’s 100% virtual global event consisted of livestream programming and AI-powered B2B networking. Access to all keynotes, fireside chats, panels and networking opportunities was free and open to the WTC Delaware business network.

Inaugurating Trade, Collaboration & Friendship between Delaware & Kogi State, Nigeria – November 16: This was our first in-person event since the pandemic, and it was well attended. Attendees met with the Nigerian diplomats, our Delaware Lt. Governor and General Assembly members, the team from the Delaware Africa Caribbean Coalition, and many business and academic colleagues. The Government of Nigeria and Kogi State represented by Ambassador Nicholas Ella and Hon. Anthony Alonwu, Minister of Trade, Investment & Multilateral. Delaware General Assembly members presented a tribute to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Kogi State, Nigeria on the occasion of the Mission Inaugurating Trade, Collaboration & Friendship Between Kogi State, Nigeria & State of Delaware. Lt. Governor Dr. Bethany Hall-Long; Representative Michael Ramone, State Senator Spiros Mantzavinos, and County Executive Matt Meyer were among the attendees.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on January 19, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET.

Adjournment

Closing remarks and thanks were presented both by Chair Tomlinson and President Stone. There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m. ET.