



Virginia Israel Advisory Board

Office of the Governor

Minutes of Board of Directors' Meeting

March 24, 2015

10:00 AM to 11:45 PM, House Room 2, Richmond, Virginia

Attended in Person: Sam Asher, Irv Blank, Marc Broklawski, Mary Rae Carter (for Maurice Jones), Mel Chaskin, Donald Ferguson (OAG), Fran Fisher, Aviva Frye, Joel Kanter, Julie Krachman, David Oblon, Ralph Robbins, Dietra Trent (for Anne Holton), Steve Wendell

Attended Via Conference Call: Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn, Jay Myerson, Timothy Powers, Joyce Slavin Scher

1. Board Minutes of December 2, 2014 were presented. There was one correction. The revised Minutes will be posted on the VIAB web site.
2. Governor's Trip to Israel - Governor Terry McAuliffe will be making a trip to Israel in October. It will be a small delegation and entirely business and economic development oriented. VIAB will be working with the VEDP on the agenda and all of the Governor's activities. The Director of the Richmond Jewish Community Center offered assistance with contacts and Ralph will be working with our Board to leverage any connections any Board members may have with Israeli business leaders.

One of the key elements of the trip will be a reception at the Ambassador's residence. This will enable Ralph to contact a wide number of contacts and re-engage them for potential "new projects"

3. Agrotech Expansion with Virginia Tech and other Virginia Universities - VIAB continues to grow and develop the Agrotech connection between Israel and the Commonwealth of Virginia through Virginia's Universities. We are bringing a delegation of experts from Virginia Tech including Joe Marcy, Dave Kuhn and Jerzy Nowak to the Agritech Israel 2015 conference in late April and expect to have high-level meetings with Agrotech business leaders including Sabra with the intent to vet these companies and bring them to Virginia – moving our collaboration to the next level. We are hoping that the VEDP will be joining us.

VIAB is also working with an Israeli company on multi-spectral sensing for precision agriculture. Tazewell will be a candidate for this approach since there is little air traffic activity and we are working with Virginia Tech on this. We have received some pro bono expertise from a lawyer from one of the leading law firms in Virginia and we see a lot of potential in this area.

4. Tazewell-Israel Business Development – VIAB continues to see significant potential in the Tazewell area for Virginia-Israel economic development. A delegation of Tazewell Board of Supervisors visited Poland (a plant similar to the one that we hope will be built in Israel albeit

the Virginia facility will be significantly larger) and Israel in early January, 2015 for a series of business meetings, due diligence activities and tours. The VIAB took the group for visits including an on-site waste treatment plant that will work well in the Tazewell area as well as greenhouse companies and an aquaculture facility that is similar to the facility that we hope will be built in Virginia. Virginia's facility will be from 8 to 10 times larger. We also met with prospective venture capitalists. The VIAB is also working with the Tazewell Board of Supervisors to build a connection with Virginia Tech that could lead to an "Agrotech Commercialization Center" at the BlueStone Site which has been a "high tech park" that has not reached the goals of the community.

5. Company Updates – Ralph reported on **Project Lunch Box** (injection molding) The project is in doubt because of county demands that the company thinks are unreasonable; the **Greenhouse project**: Moving forward; **EPC** (on-site waste treatment): Developing a relationship with Tazewell where they hope to install first US unit; **Hofit**, a company that does large rotational molding for EPC outer shells and other applications. VT Delegation will visit them; and **Project Jonah**, larger private equity raise continues.

6. Cultural Programs

Minds in Motion – In January, 2015, the Minds in Motion program had their residency program and presentation in Emek Hefer. Minds in Motion brings together children from the Arab school of Qalanswa with the Jewish school Emek Hefer. It is a unique way to teach tolerance to children and research has shown that 4th grade, which is the grade that the program was working with, is the most effective age. VIAB has been working diligently to institutionalize the funding for this program. Art Sandler of Norfolk introduced the program to the Myers Brookdale Institute for Applied Research for Social Change in Jerusalem. The VIAB continues to pursue a R&D project that can affirm the efficacy of the MIM program to teach tolerance. The VIAB continues to work with various Jewish Federations in Virginia to expand the program.

Clore Garden of Science at the Weizmann Institute – Ralph visited this very sophisticated outdoor science museum in Rehovoth Israel as a result of a meeting with the Virginia Science Museum. Ralph facilitated the connection with both institutions.

7. **House of Delegates Israel Resolution** – Mel Chaskin reported on the Resolution that the Virginia House of Delegates passed in support of Israel (see attached).

The next Board meetings are scheduled for:

July 21, 2015 *confirmed*

December 1, 2015 *confirmed*

March 29, 2016 *confirmed*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.