



# Advisory Board Meeting Minutes November 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM Virtual Meeting

## ATTENDANCE

**Board:** Clairton                      Lori Schmidt  
 Duquesne  
 East Pittsburgh                      Tom Michlovic  
 Glassport  
 Homestead                              Bernie McShea  
 McKeesport  
 Munhall                                  Jill Foys  
 Pittsburgh                                Rob Witherell  
 Rankin  
 Swissvale                                Amy Starrett  
 Turtle Creek  
 West Homestead

**Staff:** Tom Croft; Bob Value; Carrie Mihalko; Deb Lutz; Anita Prizio;  
 Alaa Mohamed; Ramsay Stevens

**Solicitor:** Mike Healey

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

## ROLL CALL & PROXY VOTE

Staff member Carrie Mihalko conducted roll call. Quorum was met with attendees.

It was also noted that the September 2025 board meeting was canceled due to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fundraising event.

## LAST MEETING MINUTES

Copies of the minutes were made available in member packets.

*The minutes of the May 2025 meeting were approved on motion by Tom Michlovic and seconded by Jill Foys. The motion passed unanimously by members Foys, McShea Michlovic, Schmidt, Starrett, and Witherell with no abstentions.*

## 40TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

Carrie Mihalko provided an overview of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event that was held on September 11, 2025 at the Westin Omni William Penn in Pittsburgh. The event had over 125 attendees with the PA Secretary of Labor & Industry Nancy Walker as the keynote speaker.

## UPDATES FROM TOM

Tom Croft provided an update on his transition. Ama Germain resigned as Heartland Coordinator. Alaa Mohamed was hired as a full-time Managing Director in September 2025. Ramsay Stevens has been a partner of Heartland for more than 5 years and will serve in an advisory capacity. Both Alaa and Ramsay provided their backgrounds and insights into Heartland's future.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elections are scheduled for the February 2026 meetings. The board is still in need of a Treasurer.

## FINANCE

Updates to the financials were inaccurate due to the wrong monthly reports being published. Revised copies will be provided at a later date.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Amy Starrett provided an overview of the documents provided by staff in the board packet.

## PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee met in a closed session with the Board regarding changes within the Authority.

*The Personnel Committee report was approved on a motion by Bernie McShea and seconded by Amy Starrett. The motion passed unanimously by members Foys, McShea Michlovic, Schmidt, Starrett, and Witherell with no abstentions.*

## DEVELOPMENT

Carrie Mihalko gave further commentary on fundraising for 2026.

## PROGRAM / TECH REVIEW

No updates from the committee

## STAFF REPORTS

Tom Croft provided additional narrative about the Finance Hub. He discussed the DOE project and subsequent convenings held on layoff aversion and the durable economy. He also highlighted the Fellowship program for 2025 that had 12 students will soon gear up for 2026 recruiting.

Bob Value provided a report on SEWN that closed out 23 client engagements with 585 jobs saved. Touched on interest rates remaining high and bankruptcies increasing.

Carrie Mihalko provided an administrative update mentioning meetings attended with US DOL, PA CareerLinks, and the MasterClass that was launched through SEWN.

## RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 25-01 Contract to retain Michael Healey as solicitor was presented on a motion by Rob Witherell and seconded by Jill Foys. *The motion passed unanimously by members Foys, McShea Michlovic, Schmidt, Starrett, and Witherell with no abstentions.*

Resolution 25-02 Approved the Steel Valley Authority's budget for January 1 – December 31, 2026. A motion was made by Bernie McShea and seconded by Rob Witherell. *The motion passed unanimously by members Foys, McShea Michlovic, Schmidt, Starrett, and Witherell with no abstentions.*

## RECOGNITION

Executive Director Tom Croft was recognized by the SVA Board members for his years of service to the Authority and wishes him the best in his retirement.

**The formal meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.**