

Business Meeting Minutes for March 27, 2019

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:

The business meeting executive session was called to order by Chairman Jesse Parks at 9:03 a.m. at the Chesapeake Heritage and Visitor Center, 425 Piney Narrows Road, Chester, MD 21619. The following Board Members were present and represented a quorum:

Jesse Parks, Chairman
Kathy Deoudes, Vice Chairman
Helen Bennett, Secretary
Steve Donovan
Don Gross
Mike Rosendale
Rob Marsh
John Anderes
Brian DeMoss
William Tumulty

Not Present:

Royce Herman, Treasurer
Jim Brown
Ed Beres
Bill Stoops
Jeremy Reynolds

Staff Present:

Jean Fabi, Economic Development Manager
Danielle Dutra, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Chris Corchiarino, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County
Todd Mohn, County Administration, Queen Anne's County
Michael Wisnosky, Director, Queen Anne's County Planning & Zoning
Nancy LaJoice, Sr. Business Development Representative, Maryland Department of Commerce
Ryan Snow, Outreach Coordinator, Governor Larry Hogan
Mike Arntz, Community Liaison, Congressman Andy Harris
Jack Schammel, RBI Mentor, TEDCO
Gigi Windley, Director, Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Linda Friday, President, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce

Jody Schulz, Owner, Boatel & Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Larry Collins, Baltimore Development Corporation
John Martin, Chesapeake Utility
Jason McCrea, Owner, Diversified Wholesale LLC
Marci Leach, Director of Program Development, Chesapeake College

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes :

On a motion made by Mrs. Bennett, and seconded by Mr. Tumulty, March meeting agenda and minutes from the February meeting were approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

III. Treasurer's Report: Due to Mr. Herman's absence, Jean Fabi reported that the balance of the account managed by Chesapeake Charities is currently \$4734.16. There has been no change from the previous months report.

IV. Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Chris Corchiarino will be filling in for Commissioner Jack Wilson as the EDC liaison for the next few months. County Commissioners are currently in the process of department budget workshops. Last week Commissioner Moran presented the Bay to Bridge Traffic Plan which will try and curb the summer weekend traffic impact around Kent Island. HB 513 regarding the regional CTE center has passed the House and is currently in the Senate.

V. Department Report: The quarterly department report was sent to the EDC prior to the meeting. Jean Fabi addressed the EDC with the Economic Development department update. GTI in Centreville has expanded into additional space allowing for a grow facility that will be completed within the next 6 to 8 weeks. This expansion is a \$9 million investment that will bring 25 new jobs. The County Commissioners approved a disbursement of \$208K from the Economic Development Incentive Fund to Corsica Technologies located in Centreville. With their expansion they plan on adding an additional 15 jobs. Due to Ashley Chenault's absence the tourism update was deferred. Ashley is currently in Dover, DE representing Queen Anne's County Tourism at the Maryland Motorcoach Association show.

VI. New Business:

A. Proposed Text Amendment MPDU Update: Mike Wisnosky, Director of Queen Anne's County Planning and Zoning updated the board on the current citizen sponsored text amendment that has been submitted, as well as the process the County follows when any type of text amendment is submitted. He also discussed how the EDC can be involved in the text amendment process per their request.

B. Presentation –Baltimore No. 74 Foreign Trade Zone: Larry Collins of the Baltimore Development Corporation gave a presentation to the board on the Baltimore No. 74 Foreign Trade Zone. Queen Anne's County was recently approved as an extension of the FTZ.

C. Four Seasons DRRRA Extension: This new business item was not listed on the agenda. Due to lengthy litigation over the last 8 years on the Four Seasons project, K. Hovnanian has petitioned the County Commissioners to extend the end date of the DRRRA, allowing the full 20 year agreement to be fulfilled. There will be a public hearing at the County Commissioners meeting on April 9, 2019.

On a motion made by Mr. Donovan, and seconded by Mr. Gross the board voted to send a letter of support for the petition to extend the DRRRA by a 9 to 1 vote of the members present. Commission member Helen Bennett expressed her concerns and would like to learn more information.

VII. Old Business:

A. EDC Driving Strategy Subcommittee Review : The current subcommittees are:

- i. Workforce Development Subcommittee
- ii. Outreach Subcommittee (formerly Marketing & Promotions)

After feedback from the Commission members, Chairman Jesse Park would like to create any additional subcommittees on an as needed basis.

B. HB513 Conference Call Follow Up: EDC members participated in a conference call with Commissioner Jack Wilson to gather additional information on HB513, which establishes a Regional Career and Technology Center at Chesapeake College. Currently HB513 has passed the House and is waiting on a committee vote from the Senate. Due to overwhelming support from the House, it looks hopeful that this bill will pass in the Senate.

VIII. Liaison Reports:

- A. Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce:** Linda Friday updated the board on behalf of the Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce. Minimum wage will stay at \$10.10 until January 1st when it increases to \$11. Minimum wage will increase by .75 cents until 2025 when businesses will be required to pay \$15/hour. There were 14 containers of soy beans exported from Queen Anne's County this past week. On April 18, 2019 there will be a Legislative Wrap-up Session at Rams Head.
- B. Kent Narrows Development Foundation:** Gigi Windley updated the board on behalf of the Kent Narrows Development Foundation. Construction of the new addition to the Cross Island Trail has begun. Coastal Cottage has closed; a new business called The "O" has opened in that space. The TIF is moving forward, there will be a meeting with developers in April. There are concerns about the Euro Geeks car club causing disruptions under the Kent Narrows Bridge. The Economic Impact Study will be completed by May.
- C. Business Queen Anne's:** Steve Donovan updated the board on behalf of Business Queen Anne's. K. Hovnanian has petitioned the County Commissioners to extend the end date of the DRRRA, allowing the full 20 year agreement to be fulfilled. There is a public hearing scheduled for April 9, 2019, please come, listen, and support.
- D. Chesapeake College:** Marci Leach updated the board on behalf of Chesapeake College. Currently rolling out some new curriculum programs.
- E. Diversified Wholesale LLC:** Jason McCray updated the board on behalf of Diversified Wholesale. This company located in Stevensville at the Chesapeake Bay Business Park has been on the Eastern Shore since 2010. They supply beer and wine accessories to liquor stores as well as Maryland Flag products.

IX. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Mr. Donovan, and seconded by Mrs. Bennett, the Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 11:07 a.m.