

Business Meeting Minutes for April 24, 2019

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:

The business meeting executive session was called to order by Chairman Jesse Parks at 9:01 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
Jim Brown
Ed Beres
Bill Stoops
Jeremy Reynolds

Not Present:

Royce Herman, Treasurer

Staff Present:

Jean Fabi, Economic Development Manager
Danielle Dutra, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Jack Wilson, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County
Chris Corchiarino, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County
Jenny Rhodes, Agriculture Agent, University of Maryland Extension
Lee Bridgmon, Extension Program Assistant, University of Maryland Extension
Patty Shreves, Apprenticeship Navigator, Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation
Nancy LaJoice, Sr. Business Development Representative, Maryland Department of Commerce
Jack Schammel, RBI Mentor, TEDCO
Hillary Cole, Human Resources Manager, GTI-Chesapeake Alternatives
Thomas Rider, Business Service Supervisor, Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation
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

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Bob Friday, Association Executive, Bay Area Association of Realtors

Wick Dudley, Bay Area Association of Realtors

William Caughey, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes :

On a motion made by Mrs. Bennett, and seconded by Mrs. Deoudes, April meeting agenda and minutes from the March 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 and Commissioner Jack Wilson updated the EDC. The Bay to Bridge Traffic Plan presented by Commissioner Moran to try and curb the summer weekend traffic impact around Kent Island was denied by the State of Maryland stating that the plan was not good for residents and businesses of Kent Island. HB 513 regarding the regional CTE center at Chesapeake College was tabled in the Senate during the past session, the bill never made it to a floor vote. There will be a meeting on May 6, 2019 with the 5 county superintendents, Dr. Coppersmith of Chesapeake College, Commissioners, and Delegate Ghrist to discuss further CTE center development in our region. The Governor's office is issuing \$2 million in grant money for shovel ready broadband projects. Queen Anne's County is participating in a pilot program effecting 80 homes.

V. Department Report: The verbal department report was deferred due to time restrictions. A written report for Economic Development and Tourism was given to the members present.

VI. New Business:

A. Agriculture Update: Review of Ag Census: Jenny Rhodes, Ag Agent, University of Maryland Extension updated the board on the recently published Queen Anne's County Ag Census. As the Ag Agent, Jenny provides research based information to farmers. Jean Fabi and Jenny are coordinating an Ag Tour for EDC members in June or September. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

B. Discussion: Review of Action Plan: The following are action steps/goals established by the EDC as part of their strategic plan:

- a. Broadband/Cell Service
- b. Permitting
- c. Board of Education/Workforce Development
- d. Communications and Outreach
- e. Marketing
- f. Pursuit of Economic & Tourism Development Director
- g. Housing/Workforce Housing/Affordable Housing
- h. Infrastructure/TIF
- i. Growth Areas
- j. Business Recruitment/Retention
- k. Healthcare

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- C. Housing Market Presentation (not on agenda):** At the request of Chairman Jesse Parks; Bob Friday, Association Director of the Bay Area Association of Realtors gave the board an update on the housing statistics for March 2019 in Queen Anne's County. Total sales were \$23.1 million, which is down 27% from March 2018. Average sale price of a house was \$350K which is also down from sale prices in 2018. 69 units were sold.

VII. Old Business:

- A. Workforce Development Subcommittee Update:** Don Gross, Chairman, updated the board on behalf of the Workforce Development Subcommittee. Jean Fabi, Don Gross, and Patty Shreves of DLLR met with Adam Tolley and Dr. Andrea Kane a few weeks ago in an effort to coordinate a meeting between Queen Anne's County public school counselors and DLLR to discuss the Youth Apprenticeship Program currently being offered. They are still waiting for a decision from the school system on holding this meeting.
- B. K. Hovnanian DRRR Extension Request:** Commissioner Chris Corchiarino updated the board on the decision made at the Commissioners meeting on April 23rd. The Commissioners have deferred a decision on the extension request back to the court for a judge to decide.

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. There is another farmer in Queen Anne's County that will be exporting soy beans. An advisory council for trades has been created at Chesapeake College; the first meeting will be April 29th. Chesapeake College has purchased the HVAC program from Caroline County.
- 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 is in progress. Exit 42 will be reopened next week, with flagging operations occurring on week days. The Queen Anne's County Sheriff's office was able to cancel the Euro Geeks car meet up under the Kent Narrows Bridge. Fisherman's Crab Deck opens for the season on April 29th, and Big Owls opens for the season on May 5th.
- 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 DRRR, allowing the full 20 year agreement to be fulfilled. BQA was pleased with the community turnout to support K. Hovnanian at the April 9th County Commissioners meeting.
- D. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation:** Patty Shreves updated the board on behalf of DLLR. There are currently 3 businesses signed up for the Youth Apprenticeship Program in Queen Anne's County, she and Adam Tolley will be meeting with a 4th company next week.

IX. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Mr. Donovan, and seconded by Mr. Rosendale, the Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 11:56 a.m.