

Business Meeting Minutes for May 22, 2019

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:

The business meeting executive session was called to order by Vice Chairman Kathy Deoudes at 9:02 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:

Kathy Deoudes, Vice Chairman
Helen Bennett, Secretary
Don Gross
Rob Marsh
John Anderes
Brian DeMoss
William Tumulty
Jim Brown
Ed Beres
Jeremy Reynolds

Not Present:

Jesse Parks, Chairman
Royce Herman, Treasurer
Steve Donovan
Mike Rosendale
Bill Stoops

Staff Present:

Jean Fabi, Economic Development Manager
Ashley Chenault, Tourism Development Coordinator
Danielle Dutra, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Chris Corchiarino, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County
Todd Mohn, County Administrator, Queen Anne's County
Megan DelGaudio, IT Manager, Queen Anne's County
Nancy LaJoice, Sr. Business Development Representative, Maryland Department of Commerce
Linda Friday, President, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce
Jody Schulz, Owner, Boatel & Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Patrick Perry, Economic Development Incentive Fund Board member/ Sullivan Financial
Marci Leach, Director, Chesapeake College

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes :

On a motion made by Mrs. Bennett, and seconded by Mr. Anderes, May meeting agenda and minutes from the April 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 \$4,738.73. [Note: The correct balance, as noted in 2019 1st Quarter Fund Balance report from Chesapeake Charities is \$4,680.63].

IV. Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Chris Corchiarino updated the EDC. The Commissioners are in the final stages of the budget. They have authorized an additional \$50K to the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office to help aid the traffic impact around Kent Island after the state denied the original plan. The first Commissioners Corner was held at Hemingway's on Friday May 9th with Commissioner Jim Moran and Commissioner Jack Wilson. They will be holding additional Commissioner Corner events at various locations and times throughout the county.

V. Department Report: The monthly department report was sent to the EDC prior to the meeting. Jean Fabi addressed the EDC with the Economic Development department update. There will be an Opportunity Zone ad in the June edition of Business Xpansion Journal. On May 8th there was a ground breaking for the new Dogwood Acres Pet Resort facility at the Matapeake Professional Park. Sealing Trust is expanding; they are located at the Matapeake Professional Park. There is an Ag Tour with Jenny Rhodes tentatively scheduled for August 20th. Ashley Chenault addressed the EDC with a tourism update, a written report was provided to the members present. A current goal of the department is to increase overnight stays and awareness of the region through marketing efforts and increased engagement with customers through social media. April marketing initiatives included ads in Coastal Living, USA Today, Southern Living, and the Washingtonian which also provided a feature on Queen Anne's County, with a total circulation of 1.8 million. The Stories of the Chesapeake cookbook has been completed and can be purchased on their website for \$20. The official Queen Anne's County visitor guide has been launched, and is being distributed by Getaways on Display to the marketplace, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. You can find the guide at all state Welcome Centers and local county Welcome Centers that accept it. There will be a Heritage Hero's event hosted by Stories of the Chesapeake on June 15th at the visitor center in Denton. Queen Anne's County Historian Mary Margaret Revel-Goodwin has been nominated as a Heritage Hero.

VI. New Business:

A. Queen Anne's County Broadband Advisory Board Presentation: Megan DelGaudio, IT Manager, Queen Anne's County updated the board on the current status and future plans for broadband service in Queen Anne's County. The advisory board received six proposals in response for a request of proposals to do a feasibility study. The feasibility study will identify a strategy to deploy broadband in the under and unserved areas of the county. Engineering studies will follow once the specific locations are identified.

VII. Old Business:

- A. Workforce Development Subcommittee Update:** Don Gross, Chairman, updated the board on behalf of the Workforce Development Subcommittee. The subcommittee plans to do a soft end run event at Chesapeake College in September. Additional details are to be determined, and will be shared as they become available. There is a follow up planning meeting scheduled for June 19.
- B. Action Plan Review:** There will be an action plan work session at the next EDC meeting scheduled for June 26th. Jean Fabi will resend the Action Plan and the Strategic Plan to the board via email.

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. The Chamber has attended ribbon cuttings for BAAR, The "O", and the groundbreaking for Dogwood Acres Pet Resort. There was a five county regional mixer held at Chesapeake College last week. On June 20th there will be a mixer held at Bridges in partnership with BAAR. The Chamber will manage the QAC Goes Purple initiative in September.
- B. Kent Narrows Development Foundation:** Jody Schulz updated the board on behalf of the Kent Narrows Development Foundation. The fireworks will be held at the Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center on Tuesday, July 2nd at 6pm, rain date will be July 3rd. The Beacon Study will be completed soon, and they are waiting on the Commissioners response to the TIF. No new information is available on Mears Point Marina or the Jemal project.
- C. Chesapeake College:** Marci Leach updated the board on behalf of Chesapeake College. There was a PAC meeting a few weeks ago; there will be a second meeting in October. Queen Anne's County is the only county that does not have a CTE hospitality program. The college will be meeting with Adam Tolley to discuss this matter. Josh Shonts, owner, Smoke Rattle & Roll has offered to host students. Workplace Excellence Series will kick off in July. Theater instructor, Dr. Thompson, has created a tourism training class that will help various tourism staff share content with visitors.
- D. Department of Commerce:** Nancy LaJoice updated the board on behalf of the Department of Commerce. There have been minor changes to some legislation that will affect commerce programs. These legislative changes will not go into effect until July 1, 2019. At the Chamber mixer on June 20th, Department of Commerce will be presenting business anniversary certificates.
- E. April 2019 Real Estate Stats:** Ed Beres updated the board with the April 2019 local market insight. The statistics were passed out to the members present. New house listings were down for the month compared to April 2018. Active listings are still slightly below the 5 year average, but slightly up from 2018.

IX. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Mr. Beres, and seconded by Mr. Gross, the Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 10:21 a.m.