

Business Meeting Minutes for June 26, 2019

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:

The business meeting executive session was called to order by Chairman Jesse Parks 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:

Jesse Parks, Chairman
Royce Herman, Treasurer
Don Gross
Rob Marsh
John Anderes
William Tumulty
Ed Beres
Jeremy Reynolds
Mike Rosendale
Bill Stoops

Not Present:

Kathy Deoudes, Vice Chairman
Helen Bennett, Secretary
Jim Brown
Steve Donovan
Brian DeMoss

Staff Present:

Jean Fabi, Economic Development Manager
Ashley Chenault, Tourism Development Coordinator
Lisa Gallow, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Jack Wilson, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County
Todd Mohn, County Administrator, Queen Anne's County
Nancy LaJoice, Sr. Business Development Representative, Maryland Department of Commerce
Gigi Windley, Director, Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Wick Dudley, Bay Area Association of Realtors
Martha Herman, Resident, Queen Anne's County

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes :

On a motion made by Mr. Tumulty, and seconded by Mr. Stoops, the June meeting agenda and minutes from the May meeting were approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

- III. Treasurer's Report:** Mr. Herman reported that the balance of the account managed by Chesapeake Charities is currently \$4,680.63.
- IV. Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Jack Wilson updated the EDC. Road maintenance is occurring throughout the county. The turf fields at Kent Island High School and Queen Anne's County High School are well underway. One will be ready by the start of the school year; the other will be ready the following week.
- V. Department Report:** The monthly department report was sent to the EDC prior to the meeting. Jean Fabi reviewed the May/June department report with Economic Development Commission. The Kent Narrows Marine Boatel expansion is currently under development review. Two new expansion projects include Parks Tire & Auto and S.E.W. Friel. New business visits include Levy Metal Enterprises located in Queenstown. The Planning Commission STAC meeting is today for K. Hovanian for phase 2 of the project. This is a public hearing, but there will be no public comments. The EDC Workforce Development subcommittee will be hosting a Career Technology Education/Youth Apprenticeship awareness event at Chesapeake College on September 25th. Ashley Chenault addressed the EDC with a tourism update, a written report was provided to the members present. Both lodging tax and visitor count are up for the year. Attended IPW trade conference in California at the beginning of June allowing networking with domestic and international markets. Currently finalizing the new website, with a goal of increasing views on the new page. All of Queen Anne's County Tourism social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) have seen an increased number of followers. At the Heritage Hero's event hosted by Stories of the Chesapeake on June 15th, Queen Anne's County Historian Mary Margaret Revel-Goodwin was honored as a Heritage Hero. Historic Stevensville Arts & Entertainment District just wrapped up their Bench Project with a ribbon cutting last Sunday. Benches will be on display at businesses throughout the Historic Stevensville district.
- VI. Old Business:**
- A. Workforce Development Subcommittee Update:** Don Gross, Chairman, updated the board on behalf of the Workforce Development Subcommittee. The subcommittee plans to hold an awareness event called "Project Bright Future" at Chesapeake College on September 25th. Additional details are to be determined, and will be shared as they become available.
- B. Ag Tour Update:** There is an Ag Tour with Jenny Rhodes from the University of Maryland Extension Program scheduled for August 20, 2019. Transportation and lunch will be provided for all those in attendance. Jean Fabi asked if the Economic Development Commission would sponsor part of the cost for lunch. A cost will be determined based on the number of people in attendance. An itinerary for the tour will be completed in the next week or two.
- VII. Action Plan Work Session**
- Jesse Parks, Chairman, broke the EDC members present into three subgroups discuss the following action plan topics: Affordable Housing; Business Recruitment and Retention; and Growth Areas. Ed Beres, Mike Rosendale and Rob Marsh discussed Affordable Housing. Jeremy Reynolds, Don Gross, and John Anderes discussed Business Recruitment and Retention. Bill Stoops, Bill Tumulty and Royce Herman discussed Growth Areas. At the end of the work session, the groups reported their concerns regarding each of the topic areas.

Items of concern for affordable housing include the cost of construction, building code regulations, and the availability of housing, sewer and water. Issues discussed regarding business recruitment and retention included the permitting and development review process, the availability of shovel ready land and infrastructure to support development, and marketing. Growth Areas issues included the status of the TIF, infrastructure and the adoption of the new Comprehensive Plan.

- VIII. Adjournment:** On a motion made by Mr. Stoops, and seconded by Mr. Tumulty, the Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 10:55 a.m.