

Business Meeting Minutes for July 22,2020

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:

The business meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jesse Parks at 9:02 a.m. at the Chesapeake Heritage Visitor Center, 425 Piney Narrows Road, Chester, MD 21619. Due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, attendees were given the option to attend via Zoom meeting application that was displayed on monitor in the Barrett Room meeting space. The following Board Members were present and represented a quorum:

Jesse Parks, Chairman
Helen Bennett, Secretary
Royce Herman, Treasurer
Ed Beres
Kathy Deoudes
Rob Marsh
Mike Rosendale
Hazen Arnold (via Zoom)
Lee Bridgmon (via Zoom)
Heather Bacher (via Zoom)
John Anderes (via Zoom)

Not Present:

Brian DeMoss
Jeremy Reynolds
Steve Donovan
Jon Cook

Staff Present:

Heather Tinelli, Director, Economic & Tourism Development
Lisa Gallow, Office Coordinator, Economic & Tourism Development

Others present:

Jack Wilson, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County
Chris Corchiarino, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County
Linda Friday, President, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce
Gigi Windley, Director, Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Dave Harper, VP of Programs, Chesapeake College
Kim Kratovil, Eastern Shore Field Representative, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin
Paige Tilghman, Economic Development Manager for Town of Centreville

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

On a motion made by Helen Bennett and seconded by Royce Herman, the July meeting agenda was approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

On a motion made by Kathy Deoudes and seconded by Rob Marsh, the minutes from the June 24th meeting were approved by unanimous vote of all members present.

III. Treasurers Report: Mr. Herman reported that the balance of the account managed by Chesapeake Charities is currently \$3882.98.

IV. Commissioners Report: County Commissioner, Jack Wilson updated the Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Wilson informed the EDC that the County Commissioners had recently sent a letter to Governor Hogan requesting that local restaurants, that are complying and following all COVID-19 guidelines, not be restricted or shut down. He also gave an update regarding the proposed plan for the upcoming school year and explained that elementary age students would be divided into 2 groups of which one group would attend school on Monday and Tuesdays and the second group would attend school on Thursday and Fridays with Wednesday utilized as a day to sanitize the schools. Middle and High school age students would be taught via online classes.

Commissioner Chris Corchiarino announced that there is still time for a write in candidate for Board of Elections in District 3.

V. Department of Economic and Tourism Update: Heather Tinelli, Director of Economic & Tourism Development provided a department update for the EDC. Ms. Tinelli shared a presentation regarding the State of the Economy and Department. The presentation included key demographic details, profile of our top industries, unemployment status, effects of COVID-19 on our local businesses and tourism industry, outlook and trends for the future regarding travel industry and ongoing, future and potential projects in the county.

VI. Old Business:

A. QAC Small Business Assistance & recovery Fund Update: Ms. Tinelli provided and update on the current status of the grant program. To date, there have been 130 local businesses that have received funds and they continue to receive applications daily. There are currently still funds available and the last day to submit an application is Friday, July 31st. The Advisory Committee will continue to meet weekly until all applications have been processed. The department has worked diligently and efficiently to minimize the turn around time from application submission to business owners having funds in hand.

B. Tourism Advisory Committee: Chairman, Jesse Parks provided information pertaining to the status of the committee. The purpose of the committee is to discuss, share and provide suggestions regarding tourism marketing and how it relates to the different businesses and entities throughout the county. The committee will include local business owners that are associated with the tourism industry as well as local liaisons that have a direct connection with local tourism-based businesses and activities. The potential committee members will be contacted and, based on availability, the first committee meeting will take place next week.

C. Department Vacancies: Heather Tinelli shared the current status of three vacancies within both Economic Development and Tourism departments. Commissioner Wilson shared that the County Commissioners have given approval for the Marketing/Tourism position left vacant by Ashley Chenault to be filled. During the first meeting of the Tourism Advisory Committee they will be discussing the expectations, goals and job description for this position.

VII. Liaison Reports:

- A. Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce:** Linda Friday, Chamber President, provided an update on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Friday stated ways in which the Chamber has been continuing to offer support to local business as they focus on re-opening and meeting the guidelines that are in place for COVID-19.

- B. Kent Narrows Development Foundation:** Gigi Windley, Director for K.N.D.F, provided an update on current issues and happenings in the Kent Narrows region. Ms. Windley shared current restaurant closures for COVID-19 cases and is working directly with the QAC Health Department and officials to help the businesses efficiently and thoroughly complete employee testing, disinfect and follow guidelines for re-opening. Ms. Windley continued with an update regarding ongoing issues with parks and public landings and the steps that have been taken to improve the situations with loitering and trash disposal.

- C. Chesapeake College:** Dave Harper, VP of Programs for Chesapeake College, shared current status of the campus. There are currently some students on campus and the college has implemented many safety precautions including a single point check in area. He explained that free webinars are available now, trade classes will start in August and most Fall classes will be online.

- D. Town of Centreville:** Paige Tilghman, Economic Development Manager for Town of Centreville share that many businesses have still not re-opened post COVID and the business that have opened are struggling with slow patronage. Ms. Tilghman also share that the Women's Museum project at the Bloomfield property in Centreville will not be moving forward and more details will be shared at a later time.

VIII. Adjournment: On a motion made by _____ and seconded by _____, the board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 11:12 p.m.