

Business Meeting Minutes for September 25, 2019

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:

The business meeting executive session was called to order by Chairman Jesse Parks at 9:04 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
Royce Herman, Treasurer
Don Gross
Rob Marsh
Ed Beres
Jeremy Reynolds
Bill Stoops
Mike Rosendale
Steve Donovan
Brian DeMoss

Not Present:

William Tumulty
Jim Brown
John Anderes

Staff Present:

Jean Fabi, Economic Development Manager

Others Present:

Jack Wilson, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County
Nancy LaJoice, Sr. Business Development Representative, Maryland Department of Commerce
Gigi Windley, Director, Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Mike Wisnosky, Director, Queen Anne's County Department of Planning & Zoning
Rob Gunter, Planner, Queen Anne's County Department of Planning & Zoning
Amy Moredock, Principal Planner, Queen Anne's County Department of Planning & Zoning
Vivian Swinson, Zoning Administrator, Queen Anne's County Department of Planning & Zoning
Linda Friday, President, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce
John Martin, Chesapeake Utility

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes :

On a motion made by Mrs. Deoudes, and seconded by Mr. Herman, September meeting agenda and minutes from the August 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 \$4,660.21.

IV. Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Jack Wilson updated the EDC. At the September 24th Commissioners meeting they discussed their legislative initiatives that will be given to the delegation next week. If the EDC has any initiatives they would like the Commissioners to present to the delegation, please let Commissioner Wilson know.

V. Department Report: The monthly department report was sent to the EDC prior to the meeting. Jean Fabi reviewed the September department report with Economic Development Commission. The Kent Narrows TIF district was established by the County Commissioners. Jean Fabi and Todd Mohn had an initial phone call with the owners of the Kmart property, follow up meetings will be held in November. Economic Development week is October 21st-October 26th. During this week there will be a number of events taking place across the region. On October 21st MEDA will be holding their fall conference in Easton. On October 22nd the department will be holding a business roundtable hosted by RTI, and sponsored by Shore United Bank. On October 24th there will be a Homeland Security/DOD business tour, more information will be released as it becomes available. In partnership with the QAC Chamber of Commerce the department has released a traffic survey for local business owners to provide feedback to the Commissioners. In Ashley Chenault's absence the Tourism update has been deferred until October's meeting.

VI. Old Business:

A. Workforce Development Subcommittee Update-Project Bright Future Kickoff Event: Don Gross, Chairman, updated the board on behalf of the Workforce Development Committee. The Project Bright Future event will take place tonight at Chesapeake College from 5pm-8pm. All 5 counties will be participating in this event. Advertising has been done through Comcast, Maryland Public Television, QACTV, and Digital Curve Marketing. Mr. Gross presented the members of the subcommittee with a recognition gift for their hard work over the last few months.

B. Nominating Committee Formation: There will be ~~5~~ 4 board members (Jim Brown-Insurance, William Tumulty-Government Contracting, Bill Stoops-Finance/Banking, ~~Royce Herman-Agriculture~~, and Don Gross-Manufacturing) whose terms will expire at the end of 2019. The County will be advertising for new applicants. [Correction: Royce Herman's term expires on December 31, 2020. His term was extended as a result of being elected Treasurer in January 2019].

VII. New Business:

A. Department of Planning and Zoning Presentation and Update: Mike Wisnosky, Director; Amy Moredock, Principal Planner; Rob Gunter, Senior Planner; and Vivian Swinson, Zoning Administrator, Queen Anne's

County Department of Planning and Zoning gave a presentation to the board on 3 topics; the current development proposals being reviewed; the Comprehensive Plan Update process; and the permitting process. Handouts were given to the board on all topics discussed. Per Director, Mike Wisnosky the redevelopment of the Jemal property located in the Kent Narrows is no longer moving forward. Rob Gunter provided a spreadsheet with a map of the projects currently under review. Amy Moredock indicated the Comprehensive Plan will be updated, but the process will not have the level of public participation it did during the 2010 Comprehensive Plan process. The proposal bids for a consultant to do the Comprehensive Plan update were opened on September 13th. They are now in the process of reviewing the submissions to select the consultant. They hope to have a consultant on board by the end of October. Vivian Swinson discussed building permits, and the permitting process. She stated that currently the average length of time to process a permit is 22 days.

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. Teacher of the year recognition was held on September 18th during the chamber mixer. There are 46 new teachers in Queen Anne's County. QAC Goes Purple will continue through the month of October. Haunted Trap House will take place at the end of October. Chamber awards will be held on November 21, 2019.
- B. Business Queen Anne's:** Steve Donovan updated the board on behalf of Business Queen Anne's. There will be a presentation from the developers of the Barnstable project at tonight's BQA meeting.
- C. August 2019 Real Estate Stats:** Ed Beres updated the board with the August 2019 local market insight. The statistics were passed out to the members present. Median sold price for August was up 1.9% from August 2018. The average number of days a house was on the market was 82. On sold properties there were 9 cash sales, 49 conventional sales and 9 VA sales.
- D. Chesapeake College:** Dave Harper submitted his update on Chesapeake College in writing. Chesapeake College expects to hire a new Dean for Workforce Programs in October, adding energy and expertise as the programs expand that will better meet local business and industry needs. Dr. Coppersmith is looking forward to serving on the Project Bright Future panel. He has prepared a number of data-driven talking points in response to Commissioner Wilsons draft questions.
- E. Kent Narrows Development Foundation:** Gigi Windley updated the board on behalf of Kent Narrows Development Foundation. The Beacon Study has been completed and will be presented in October. The Cross Island Connector Trail is nearing completion. KNDF has been working with the County to get the speed limit reduced and signs put up on route 18. The Narrows Restaurant is planning for an expansion.
- F. Town of Barclay:** Brian DeMoss updated the board on behalf of the Town of Barclay. The town is anticipating having public sewer service extended from the town of Sudlersville. DeMoss Lands LLC has annexed 87 acres to help with the growth of Chesapeake Burial Vault and some potential new businesses. Annex should be completed by the end of October.

- IX. Adjournment:** On a motion made by Mr. Donovan, and seconded by Mr. Stoops, the Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 10:50 a.m.