

Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting (via Zoom)
November 17, 2020

Board Members Participating

Sheryl Jaros
Justin Kiernan
Butch Pearson
Joe Pomerantz
Jody Schulz
Jeff Smith
Judy Wink
Pat Worns

Absent with Notice

Jerry Dammeyer
Mike Foster
Victoria Hoffman
Jason Ruth
Walt Thompson

Commissioner Liaison

Jim Moran (for Phil Duminel)

Guests:

Bente Cooney, Plastic Free QAC
Scott Davies, Narrows Pointe
Linda Friday, QAC Chamber of Commerce

Queen Anne's County Staff

Heather Tinelli, Director, Economic and Tourism Development
Nancy Scozzari, Parks and Recreation

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Kent Narrows Development Foundation commenced at 9:03 a.m. Jody stated that the reason for the Zoom-only meeting is technical difficulties with the Barrett Room conferencing system. The Foundation had been advised by the county to hold the meeting through alternate means until the system is fully repaired. A quorum was achieved with the addition of Jeff Smith via speakerphone.

Public Comment

None

Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes.

RESOLUTION

Judy Wink made a motion to accept the Minutes from the October 27, 2020, regular meeting of the KNDF. The Board unanimously approved.

Financial Report

Gigi Windley explained that because the Foundation is meeting a week early, the financial reports are not yet ready. They will be emailed to Board members when completed. She reported the following:

Checking Account

The current balance in Shore United Bank is \$44,987 as of 11/17/20. The balances in the other accounts remain stable.

Commissioner Moran

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN ANNAPOLIS THIS SESSION

QAC has put forth a legislative agenda for actions by the state, including:

- a bill to enact penalties for those who are illegally fishing from the Kent Narrows bridge, and
- a bill to enact penalties for those who intentionally impede traffic on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

NEPA STUDY

Commissioner Moran gave an update on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Crossing Study [Tier 1, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Bay Crossing Study]. The study will result in the identification of a preferred corridor alternative to address congestion at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and will include an evaluation of its financial feasibility. Tier 1 is expected to be completed in 2021. Hearings will be held on the final selection throughout 2021. Funded with tolls collected through the Maryland Transportation Authority, the Tier 1 study is projected to cost \$5 million. The Tier 2 study, not yet funded, could cost up to \$35 million.

Parks, Recreation, and Public Landings

Nancy Scozzari reported that the division is considering best ways to manage visitation to the parks during peak season. The division plans to schedule meetings with DES and the Sheriff's Office. Permits, meters, and other ideas are on the table. They hope to have a plan rolled out in the beginning of 2021.

Three large maps will be placed on the information kiosks around the trails in the WVC.

Economic Development and Tourism

Heather Tinelli was unable to attend the meeting due to a work conflict.

Gigi reported that a new Tourism Manager will be on board by mid-December, and that the new receptionist for the Visitor Center, Korine Hudson, has begun work.

Director's Report

Gigi reported on the following:

STATUS OF PROJECTS IN THE WVC

Hyatt Place

The Hyatt Place Hotel is moving forward with \$35 million in financing. The 120-room hotel and conference center will add significant new investment to the community. Expected to open in mid-2022, the hotel will have 5,000 square feet of conference space and a 44-slip marina. Every room will have a waterfront view. An article about the project appeared in the Baltimore Business Journal; mentions appeared in several Linked In postings.

Kent Narrows Marine Boatel Phase 2

Construction is well underway; tenants are being sought; listed by Coldwell Banker Watermen Realty. Office/retail space starting from 1051sq ft at \$28/per sq ft., water/sewer included. Each office will be equipped with dedicated electric meter, HVAC, and restrooms. Boat storage facility should be finished by April of 2020.

Business Status:

Closed for the season: The Crab Deck, The Big Owl, Red Eyes, and Fisherman's Seafood Market.

PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Wayfinding Project

The Foundation has invited all interested, qualified people or firms to submit bids for planning and design of the pedestrian wayfinding system. The Request for Qualifications was posted on the KNDF's website and on the QAC procurement site. It was sent to a list of potential vendors through the procurement office. Responses to the RFQ are due on January 6, 2021. Two companies have responded.

Vendor Interviews will be held January 15-23, 2021.

Once vendors are deemed qualified, they will be eligible to bid on a forthcoming RFP for the Design Phase of the Project (Phase 1). A reasonable timetable for that project will be identified in the RFP.

At the completion of Phase 1, subsequent RFPs will be issued for the fabrication and installation.

Special Tax District Reconciliation

The County has all materials needed from the KNDF to finish the reconciliation process. Amy Moredock is taking the lead to ensure the changes are made. All departments have been copied on the Memo from the KNDF.

PROMOTION

500 Kent Narrows postcards were printed to serve as a promotional items as the newly designed visitor center opens.

Two new Kent Narrows WVC “You Are Here” maps have been printed for outside display at the Visitors Center to assist visitors when the Center is closed.

A social networking campaign and promotional map is being designed to complement QAC’s Holiday Shopping Trail promotion. A map that showcases gift ideas from businesses in the Kent Narrows is under development, and the basket tree location will be placed on the map. The base map will serve as a template for subsequent promotions. Fishergate is handling the design.

A Kent Narrows giveaway package is being developed in cooperation with the Bay to Beach periodical. It will be a reader’s contest featuring a weekend getaway in the Kent Narrows.

Blues Festival

Jeff Smith reported that the Yacht Club is working with the Blues Foundation in Memphis to produce a Blues Festival for May 15 - 16, 2021.

Car Show.

The Yacht Club is planning another car show for June 6.

Holiday Basket Tree

The KNDF and the Queen Anne’s County Economic and Tourism Development Office have been working with the QAC Watermen’s Association to build a crab basket tree at Fishermen’s Inn to celebrate the Holiday Season. The Tree lighting will take place the evening of December 5. QAC TV will host a virtual tree lighting event around dusk on that day. The KNDF has issued several media advisories and has provided native content that is being amplified by a variety of local businesses and organizations. KNDF will cover the building of the tree live from the KNDF Facebook page on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

The organizers plan to grow the event in subsequent years when larger gatherings are permitted.

OUTREACH

Gigi Windley arranged for a visit by Ken Skrzysz, Director of the Maryland State Arts Council. Heather Tinelli was included in the meeting. The objective was to discuss opportunities to expand public arts projects in the Kent Narrows and ways that their programs can benefit other organizations throughout the county.

OLD BUSINESS

None

DBA Change

ASG has been asked to supply a list of items and actions that will be required to move forward to add a “Doing Business As” (DBA) to the Foundation’s identity.

Resolution

Pat Worns made a motion to enable the KNDF’s executive director and AGS to move forward in adding “Kent Narrows Foundation” as the DBA name to the Foundation’s registrations, and also to enable the ED to spend up to \$1000 to make the changes. Judy Wink seconded.

2021 KNDF Meeting Calendar

The Board reviewed the 2021 Meeting Calendar that set regular meetings for the fourth Tuesday of each month, with the exception of November and December, when meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Capital Improvement and Maintenance Committee

A joint meeting is being set up with county officials to identify a path for improving the standards of maintenance of the public lands and property in the WVC. Cooperative arrangements with commercial property owners and KNDF are being explored. A comprehensive list of projects has been updated and will be circulated at that meeting. The prioritization, division of labor, funding, and timing of those projects will need to be established.

Nominating Committee

Joe Pomerantz reported that members of the nominating committee met with each of the candidates nominated for the 2021 Board positions.

Resolution

Joe Pomerantz made a motion on behalf of the nominating committee to elect Jason Tuel for a three-year term to begin on January 1, 2021. The Board unanimously approved.

Resolution

Joe Pomerantz made a motion on behalf of the nominating committee to re-elect Sheryl Jaros and Pat Worns for a three-year term to begin on January 1, 2021. The Board approved.

Joe Pomerantz thanked all of those who submitted resumes and encouraged them to be involved with the Foundation.

Comp Plan Committee

Gigi Windley reported that there has been no direction yet from the county related to the Comp Plan update. A new website to support the Comp Plan is being launched. The KNDF has started to collect KNDF-specific data that will be needed for the update.

NEW BUSINESS

The executive director was asked to draft a letter on behalf of the Board to Douglas Development requesting that the damaged Quonset hut next to Piney Narrows Marina be repaired as soon as possible.

Jody Schulz encouraged the county to start the rebranding project once the new tourism manager is on board in December.

Judy Wink requested that Commissioner Maran pass on thanks to the QAC Department of Health for their efficient management of the testing program.

ADJOURNMENT

Pat Worns made a motion to adjourn; Joe Pomerantz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

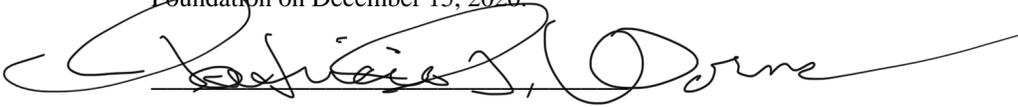
Georgeanna (Gigi) Windley,

Executive Director

Kent Narrows Development Foundation

Certification:

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Minutes that were adopted by the Directors of this Foundation on December 15, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Worns", written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patricia Worns, KNDF Secretary