

Business Meeting Minutes for January 27, 2017

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:

The business meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Hoffman at 8:35 a.m. at the Chesapeake Heritage and Visitor Center, 425 Piney Narrows Road, Chester, MD 21619. The following Board Members were present:

William Tumulty, Vice Chairman
Ed Vitalos, Secretary
Royce Herman, Treasurer
Kate Gray
Bill Stoops
Steve Donovan
Don Gross
Jeremy Reynolds
Jim Brown
Jeremy Reynolds
Helen Bennett

Staff Present:

Jean Fabi, Acting Director, Department of Economic Development
Ashley Chenault, Tourism Manager, Department of Community Affairs

Others Present:

Commissioner Robert Buckey
Linda Friday, QAC Chamber
Gigi Windley, Manager, Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Deborah Bowden, Regional Representative, MD Dept. of Commerce
Tom Rider, MD Dept. of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Guests Present:

Jim Smith, NRL and Associates, Inc., MD Mfg Org.
Rich Coursey, NRL and Associates, Inc., MD Mfg Org.
Ryan Gordon

II. Approval of Minutes :

On a motion made by Mr. Tumulty and seconded by Mr. Herman, the minutes of the November meeting were approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

III. Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Fabi reported that the balance in the account managed by Chesapeake Charities is \$3,199. Mr. Herman stated that, as treasurer, he will be meeting with Ms. Fabi to review the budget.

IV. Department Report and Commissioner Report:

- A. Ms. Fabi distributed the January Monthly report to the Board. She discussed two new projects , one involving a homeland security company and another involving a proposed recreational use. Ms. Fabi stated that she attended MEDA's Annapolis Day and met with legislators in session. Dick's Autohaus was recognized at a County Commissioners' meeting for 50 years of service in the County.
- B. Commissioner Buckey gave an update on the status of the medical cannabis emergency legislation. Buckey requested that Linda Friday and Gigi Windley be special liaisons for him, alternating months. He gave an update on the search for a director stating that a person had been interviewed but he was not a fit for the position. Mr. Buckey discussed commercial development occurring within the towns and sewer capacity for development. The EDC will request that the towns be present at the February meeting to discuss commercial development. He discussed the special tax district in the Kent Narrows. He discussed development along the US 301/50 corridor and undesirable commercial development. He would consider extending commercial zoning up US Route 301 under the next Comprehensive Plan as a result of the Middletown bypass. More commercial zoning is needed in the northern portion of the county. More information is needed from the towns of Barclay, Sudlersville and Centreville about the capacity for commercial development, such as a WalMart. He also discussed the status of the Broadband study and recommended at a future point to have FTS and Think Big give a presentation to the EDC about the installation of fiber in Kent County, MD. Mr. Vitalos, who is on the broadband committee, gave an update on the progress of the final stages of interviewing and rating the companies that responded with proposals for broadband installation in Queen Anne's County.

IV. Guest Presentation:

Jim Smith and Rich Coursey, of NRL and Associates, Inc. provided the EDC with an overview of the Maryland Manufacturing Organization (MD MFG) initiative. The mission is to form a coalition of manufacturers at the state and local level to address legislative matters, workforce development, the awarding of contracts, and other issues directly related to manufacturing. This organization ties into the EDC's Action Plan to support the formation of an industry sector alliance. Mr. Smith and Mr. Coursey also gave an overview of their company, located in the Chesapeake Bay Business Park, Stevensville. Ryan Gordon, of WorkForceTactix, Inc., also of

Stevensville, discussed the group healthcare plan available to manufacturers, as well as the potential to extend it to include other businesses.

VI. Old Business:

- A. EDC Action Plan: The most recent draft of the Action Plan was distributed to the EDC Board for review prior to the meeting. The draft incorporates the recommended revisions to Driving Strategy 1 to accommodate tourism. The word cluster was removed and replaced with economic development activity sector. The EDC discussed other recommended revisions to the wording, which will be incorporated into the final Action Plan. On a motion made by Mr. Tumulty and seconded by Mr. Stoops, the Board unanimously approved the Action Plan inclusive of the recommended changes. Chairman Hoffman discussed that the Dashboard is pending and the EDC will be paying a maintenance fee to BEACON to keep it updated. Ms. Fabi will contact Dr. Diriker with a date to present the Action Plan to the County Commissioners. There will be a per hour fee charged by Dr. Diriker as this is outside the services contracted under the Strategic Plan. The meeting is planned for the first commissioner meeting in March pending confirmation from Dr. Diriker.
- B. EDC Summit Update: Ms. Fabi stated that the event is the Queen Anne's County Economic Outlook Symposium. Catering bids have been received and will be reviewed by the Planning Committee. Seating is limited due to the size of the room. The charge per ticket will be \$35. The EDC will pay for the catered breakfast which should be around \$1,200 to \$1,300 for 60 people, inclusive of linens, servers, and plates/utensils. The EDC discussed giving a donation to CBEC for use of the facility. The Department of Economic Development will pay for Dr. Diriker to be the key note speaker. Other speakers include Steve Pennington from the Maryland Department of Commerce, and, pending confirmation, Jim DiDonato, of Mallard Construction. Chairman Hoffman will be the Master of Ceremonies.

VI. New Business:

- A. Enterprise Zone: Ms. Fabi reported that, to date, approximately \$10 million in projects were certified as a result of the outreach effort to get projects under construction certified to use 2016 as the base year. Approximately 65 new full-time jobs are expected to be created based on the certifications issued since January 1. Ms. Fabi gave a presentation to the County Commissioners on January 6 on the Enterprise Zone and the tax credits associated with it.
- B. Change in Meeting Time: At the request of Commissioner Buckley, Chairman Hoffman has agreed to change the start time of the next three meetings to 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Buckley is attending MACO conferences while the Delegation is in session.

VII. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Mr. Tumulty and seconded by Mr. Donovan, the Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 10:54 a.m.