

**Business Meeting Minutes for February 27, 2019**

**I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:**

The business meeting executive session was called to order by Chairman Jesse Parks at 9:01 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  
William Tumulty, Vice Chairman  
Helen Bennett, Secretary  
Steve Donovan  
Kathy Deoudes  
Jim Brown  
Don Gross  
Bill Stoops  
Mike Rosendale  
Rob Marsh  
John Anderes  
Brian DeMoss  
Jeremy Reynolds

Not Present:  
Royce Herman, Treasurer  
Ed Beres

Staff Present:  
Jean Fabi, Economic Development Manager  
Ashley Chenault, Tourism Coordinator  
Danielle Dutra, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:  
Chris Corchiarino, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County  
Nancy LaJoice, Sr. Business Development Representative, Maryland Department of Commerce  
Bob Friday, Association Executive, Bay Area Association of Realtors  
Gigi Windley, Director, Kent Narrows Development Foundation  
Linda Friday, President, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce  
Thomas Rider, Business Service Supervisor, Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation  
Jody Schulz, Owner, Boatel & Kent Narrows Development Foundation  
Patty Shreves, Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation

Jeffrey Smith, Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation  
Tom Glen

**II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes :**

On a motion made by Mrs. Bennett, and seconded by Stoops, February meeting agenda and minutes from the January meeting were approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

**III. Treasurer's Report:** Due to Mr. Herman's absence, Jesse Parks reported that the balance of the account managed by Chesapeake Charities is currently \$4,734.16. There has been no change from the previous months report.

**IV. Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Chris Corchiarino will be filling in for Commissioner Jack Wilson as the EDC liaison for the next few months. Todd Mohn has been appointed by the Commissioners as the new County Administrator, replacing Gregg Todd. Update from Commissioner Jack Wilson, HB 513 regarding the regional tech center is moving forward. The Commissioners voted to move \$200k from the Bridge Fund to the Economic Development Incentive Fund, at the request of the EDIF Commission. The Commissioners have authorized the Broadband Advisory Committee to start the process for issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to hire a strategic consultant and an engineering consultant.

**V. Department Report:** The monthly department report was sent to the EDC prior to the meeting. Jean Fabi addressed the EDC with the Economic Development department update. Jean Fabi attended Economic Development Day in Annapolis sponsored by the Maryland Economic Development Association. Queen Anne's County was recently approved as an extension of the Baltimore #74 Foreign Trade Zone. This zone is managed by the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) by Larry Collins. Collins and Fabi met with several companies, including GROCO, which may be the first company to become activated in the county. Chairman Parks has requested a Foreign Trade Zone presentation from Larry Collins at the April meeting. The Department has been working with Commissioner Moran on the Beach to Bridge Traffic Plan, there is an invite only meeting scheduled on March 21, 2019 at the Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center. Project updates include the USDA facility site selection, which was on hold due to lack of funding during the government shutdown. This project is now moving forward and we can expect to hear next month if Queen Anne's County has been chosen as a possible site location. Dogwood Acres Pet Resort is expected to break ground in mid-March. This company was approved a development review fee reimbursement that is pending commencement of construction. Slippery Hill Phase I broke ground shortly after the permits for construction were issued. This is a mixed use project located off of Nesbit Road. They have been certified to receive the Enterprise Zone Commercial Real Property Tax. Blackwater Distilling will be opening their new tavern mid-March. Smoke Rattle and Roll plans to have its new Centreville location open by mid-March. Both Blackwater Distilling and Smoke Rattle and Roll have received EDIF funding to support their expansions. The Jemal project received concept plan approval during

the February Planning Commission meeting. March 6<sup>th</sup> begins the SCORE workshop series at the Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center. The new Economic Development website has been launched, [www.choosequeenannes.com](http://www.choosequeenannes.com). Ashley Chenault addressed the EDC with a Tourism update. There are multiple bills currently in the House and Senate that will affect the Tourism sector. SB 480 to allow breweries to apply for marketing dollars, HB 533 post Labor Day school start, and HB 884 to collect accommodation tax on short term rental properties. In conjunction with Maryland Tourism Collation, a letter of support was sent for these bills. SB 390 which would allow hunting of migratory game birds on Sundays was withdrawn. There is currently a display representing Queen Anne's County set up at the Bay County Welcome Center. In the coming months we will also have a display at the I95 & I70 Welcome Centers. New TAC signage in Queen Anne's County is almost complete. The new Tourism website and Visitors Guide will be launched in April. The #VisitQAC Photo Contest has ended; there will be three local judges. All winning photos will be on display in the gallery once judging is complete. We will be attending PBA (Pennsylvania Bus Association) and MMA (Maryland Motorcoach Association) in March, as well as IPW in June. Historic Stevensville Arts & Entertainment District will be continuing with their 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday events this year, along with the promotion of the Historic Sites around the county.

**VI. New Business:**

- A. Presentation from Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation:** Jeffrey Smith and Patty Shreve from the Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation gave a presentation to the board about the DLLR Youth Apprenticeship Program and its current partnership with Queen Anne's County Public Schools. Mr. Smith gave an overview of the program and asked that companies who would like to participate seek registration assistance from Patty Shreve, our DLLR Business Navigator serving the five county region.
- B. HB 513 Letter of Support:** The EDC would like to send a letter of support for HB 513, which proposes the creation of a regional technology and career school at Chesapeake College to serve five counties. Chairman Parks requested more information on this proposal. A conference call with Commissioner Jack Wilson will be scheduled within the week, and a vote will be taken via e-mail.

**VII. Old Business:**

- A. EDC Driving Strategy Subcommittee Review :** On suggestions made by Chairman Parks, the following subcommittees have been presented:
- i. Workforce Development Subcommittee
  - ii. Tourism Subcommittee
  - iii. Housing Subcommittee
  - iv. Business Attraction/Retention Subcommittee
  - v. Outreach Subcommittee
  - vi. Director Subcommittee

The EDC would like the county lobbyist to come and speak with them before a decision is made on creating a Legislative Affairs subcommittee. The EDC would like to have joint

meetings with the Planning Commission. The EDC will submit a quarterly report to the County Commissioners. Chairman Parks stated that EDC representation at all Commissioner Meetings is needed. At the request of the board, all Commissioner and Planning Commission meeting dates will be noted on the EDC agenda. Mr. Parks stated that the search for a director for the Department needs to be initiated and that the Commissioners want EDC feedback. Email any subcommittee suggestions or ideas to Jesse Parks so that a comprehensive list can be compiled for further discussion.

- B. Fee Reimbursement Policy Review:** Prior to the meeting, Ms. Fabi sent the EDC a list of projects that received fee waivers or reimbursements, along with Resolution 14-03 Development Review Fee Reimbursement in response to a request for review at the last EDC meeting. Ms. Fabi explained the process by which the development review fees are reimbursed, formerly waived, in accordance with the resolution. She asked for feedback on how this process could or should be revised. Commission member Helen Bennett expressed concerns about the specifics of the Resolution being vague.
- C. EDIF Program Update:** Prior to the meeting, Ms. Fabi sent the EDC an information sheet with an overview of the EDIF funding, the recipients, the amount each received, and the total overall fund balance since the inception of the program in 2014. Also included was Resolution 13-05 that created the program. Ms. Fabi gave an overview of the program and its function. She explained that the program is administered by a board of four appointed members and one board position that is held by the County Administrator. The current board members are: Mike Whitehill, Bill Walmsley, Jim Coulter, Eric Hoffman and County Administrator Todd Mohn. Both the EDIF and the BRIDGE programs had been funded by a dedication from the recordation tax. That dedicated funding ended in 2016. After approval from the County Commissioners, \$200K from the BRIDGE Fund was transferred to the EDIF. The BRIDGE program has not been utilized, the only project awarded BRIDGE funding did not move forward. Chairman Parks suggested that the EDC send a recommendation to the County Commissioners to continue funding the EDIF program in some way. Information about the BRIDGE program will be provided to the EDC for review.

#### **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. Amendments were made to the minimum wage bill. Minimum wage will stay at \$10.10 until January 1<sup>st</sup> when it increases to \$11. Minimum wage will increase by .75 cents until 2025 when businesses will be required to pay \$15/hour. The 64 chambers in Maryland have formed a collation; AHP (Association Health Care Program) for Chamber of Commerce's to offer health care programs to small businesses consisting of 50 employees or less. The Chamber has issued 4 Certificates of Origin since January. The Chamber hosted a tour on February 1<sup>st</sup> at the local public safety agencies. Rob Marsh, Linda Friday and George Harvey are teaming up with the schools to show promotional business videos during morning announcements. In partnership with KRM Development there will be a networking event; Success in 60 at Hydraresearch on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

- B. Kent Narrows Development Foundation:** Gigi Windley updated the board on behalf of KNDF. The concept plan for the Jemal project was approved with conditions by the Planning Commission. The Mears Point Marina project is moving forward. Tax district expansion was approved to include the Kent Island Yacht Club.
- C. Business Queen Anne's:** Steve Donovan updated the board on behalf of Business Queen Anne's. They will be having conversations with all the Commissioners. They have already spoken with Commissioner Jack Wilson, Commissioner Chris Corchiarino is next.

**IX. Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Mr. Stoops, and seconded by Mr. Tumulty, the Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 11:53 a.m.