

Business Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2020

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:

The business meeting executive session was called to order by Chairman Jesse Parks at 9:00 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
Royce Herman, Treasurer
Rob Marsh
Jeremy Reynolds
Mike Rosendale
Steve Donovan
John Anderes
Hazen Arnold
Lee Bridgman
Heather Bacher
Jon Cook

Not Present:

Helen Bennett, Secretary
Brian DeMoss
Ed Beres

Staff Present:

Heather Tinelli, Economic & Tourism Development Director
Danielle Dutra, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Chris Corchiarino, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County
Todd Mohn, County Administrator, Queen Anne's County
David Harper, VP, Chesapeake College
Gigi Windley, Director, Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Kim Kratovil, Eastern Shore Field Representative, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin
Jack Schammel, Mentor, TEDCO
Patrick Perry, Board Member, QAC Economic Development Incentive Fund Commission
Mike Arntz, Community Liaison, Congressman Andy Harris
Virginia Albers, Town Manager, Town of Barclay
John Martin, Business Development Manager, Chesapeake Utilities

February 26, 2020

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes :

On a motion made by Mr. Reynolds, and seconded by Mrs. Bacher, February meeting agenda and minutes from the January 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 \$3,917.97.

IV. Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Chris Corchiarino updated the EDC. The County Commissioners recently presented to the delegation in regards to gaining control of the side roads during heavy traffic times. Discussion has been had on continuing with the TIF in the Kent Narrows area or should they become part of the Enterprise Zone. A decision would need to be made on this by April. The General Assembly has proposed a tax on services; the EDC may want to weigh in on this issue in the future. There was a hearing in the senate for Choptank's broadband bill on February 25th, the house bill will be heard on March 5th, and the CTE bill will be heard on March 3rd.

V. Department Report: Economic Development Director, Heather Tinelli, reviewed the department report with the Economic Development Commission. Chesapeake Heritage and Visitor Center counts have increased from January 2019 to January 2020. Queen Anne's County Parks and Recreation will be updating the QAC trail maps, which will be used in visitor center. The department has attended Rural Maryland Day, Tourism Day, Economic Development Day, and Taste of the Eastern Shore in Annapolis during the month of February. There was a presentation given to Shore Health at the end of January which provided an overview of Queen Anne's County, and what our medical needs are specific to urgent care services. Shore Health presented their plans for a facility in Queen Anne's County at the County Commissioners meeting on February 25th. Special projects include Traffic Listening Sessions, and the Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center redesign. Upcoming events include the Kent Narrows Visioning Session on March 5th at the Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center and the Grasonville Visioning Session on March 18th at the Grasonville Community Center.

VI. Old Business:

A. Comp Plan Update Visioning Session: Smith Planning and Design, the outside consulting company working with Queen Anne's County on the Comp Plan will be attending the Economic Development Commission meeting on March 25th to gather input from the board. Chairman, Jesse Parks and Economic and Tourism Development Director, Heather Tinelli would like to hold some informational review sessions in March prior to the March 25th EDC meeting.

B. Subcommittee Review: Chairman, Jesse Parks, discussed the need to bring back EDC Subcommittees. Proposed committees include Workforce Development, Small Business, Permitting, and Business Ambassadors. The current interest from board members is as follows:

- i. Permitting:** Jesse Parks, Kathy Deoudes, and Jon Cook
- ii. Workforce Development:** Rob Marsh, and Hazen Arnold
- iii. Small Business:** Helen Bennett
- iv. Business Ambassador:** Heather Bacher

If you have not already chosen a subcommittee to be a part of, please let Heather know via email before the April EDC meeting.

VII. New Business:

A. Review of 2020 Legislation: The Economic Development Commission reviewed and voted on supporting or not supporting important bills related to Economic Development in the State of Maryland. The decisions are as follows:

- i. **HB 223-End Ineffective Business Subsidies Act of 2020,**
- ii. **HB 565-Income Tax-Business and Economic Development Tax Credits-Termination**
- iii. **HB 45/SB 122 Economic Development-Opportunity Zone Incentives-Alteration of the More Jobs for Marylanders and Opportune Zone Enhancement Programs**

For the above named bills, on a motion made by Mr. Donovan, and seconded by Mr. Marsh, the board unanimously approved to send a letter to not support these bills, as they suppress business growth.

iv. SB 0397 Sales and Use Tax and Personal Property Tax-Exemptions-Data Centers

On a motion made by Mr. Donovan, and seconded by Mr. Reynolds, the board unanimously approved to send a letter of support for SB 0397.

v. HB603/SB794 Regional Career & Technical Education (CTE) School

On a motion made by Mr. Marsh, and seconded by Mr. Anderes, the board unanimously approved to send a letter of support for HB603/SB794.

vi. HB1398 Repealing certain residency requirement for alcoholic beverage licenses in QA

On a motion made by Mr. Donovan, and seconded by Mr. Herman, the board voted 7 to 4 to send a letter of support for HB1398. Board member Rob Marsh was opposed while board members Jon Cook, Kathy Deoudes and Mike Rosendale abstained from the vote.

vii. HB 525 Phase Out Company Giveaways Act

viii. HB 690 Repealing certain residency requirements for alcoholic beverage licenses in QA specific to Partnerships

ix. HB 468 Clarifies that no one under 21 shall be a bartender requires Safe Serve or TIPS training for all servers

x. HB 688 Authorizes Local Authority to Restrict Local Traffic

For the above named bills, on a motion made by Mrs. Deoudes, and seconded by Mr. Donovan, the board unanimously decided not to take a position on these bills at this time.

B. Listening Session for Businesses Affected by Traffic: During the month of March we plan to hold some listening sessions in several different locations between Queenstown and Kent Island to engage the business community that is affected by the beach and bridge traffic.

C. Visitor Center RFP: The Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center request for proposals for the lobby redesign project was officially released on Monday, February 24th. There is a pre-bid meeting scheduled for Friday, March 6th. The RFP can be found on the County website, www.qac.org.

VIII. Liaison Reports:

A. Business Queen Anne's: Steve Donovan updated the board on behalf of Business Queen Anne's. BQA is working on the Comprehensive Plan to make sure that it is functional and readable. There will be a hearing on Phase 2 of the 4 Seasons project tonight at 4pm. If you are interested in keeping up with BQA news, you can sign up for their newsletter.

B. Kent Narrows Development Foundation: Gigi Windley updated the board on behalf of Kent Narrows Development Foundation. Safe Harbor has purchased the Mears property and has renamed it Safe Harbor

EDC Business Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2020

Narrows Point. All the current business partners on the property will be staying. There will be a Kent Narrows Visioning Workshop at the Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center on March 5th. Gigi Windley recently attended the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg, PA representing the Kent Narrows Region.

- C. **Congressman Andy Harris:** Mike Arntz, Community Liaison, updated the board on behalf of Congressman Andy Harris's office. The office is currently promoting the importance of being counted in the 2020 Census so that Queen Anne's County receives maximum funding. There is a \$19K funding deficit for each person not counted over a 10 year period.
- D. **Chesapeake College:** Dave Harper updated the board on behalf of Chesapeake College. Dr. Greg Warren the new Workforce Dean has now been with Chesapeake College for four months. He is working to redevelop the programming plans. Dave testified with Delegate Ghrist on behalf of HB 603, the CTE bill. Dr. Coppersmith will be testifying in the senate for that bill. There is a meeting scheduled with Adam Tolley on Friday, February 28th to discuss ways to expand their collaborations which could extend into culinary.

- IX. **Adjournment:** On a motion made by Mr. Donovan, and seconded by Mrs. Deoudes, the Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 11:19 a.m.