

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
4/1/15

PRESENT

Mike Ratchford (W.L. Gore & Associates) Bruce England (SWN), Doreen Smith (Town of Perryville), Dr. Mary Bolt (Cecil College), Denise Davis (CCPL), Dan Schneckenburger (County Council), Bob Palsgrove (WSFS), Paula Gilley (Citizen), Norman Gaither (NorArk Executive Group), Grove Miller (Citizen), Dr. Robert Gell (Town of Charlestown), Danny De Marinis (URP), Walter Buck (Citizen), Dr. D'Ette Devine (CCPS), Mike Lara (Orbital ATK), Dr. Alan McCarthy (County Council), Doris Mason (USRC).

STAFF

Lisa Webb (Economic Development Director), Joanne Richart-Young (Ag Coordinator), Sandy Turner (Tourism Coordinator), Susan O'Neill (Economic Development Manager), Jason Zang (Economic Development Coordinator), Robin McCann (Administrative Assistant), Jim Ford (SBDC).

ABSENT

Jeanne Miner (Town of Elkton), Woody Jackson (Jackson Marine Sales), Mike Travers (Cecil Dance Center), Linda Burris (Delmarva Power), Scott Holland (i-Lighting), Lauren Johnsky (APG), Dr. Ken Lewis (Union Hospital), Joanne Dawson (Fairwinds), Rupert Rossetti (Citizen).

GUESTS

Dr. David Rudolph, Alan Sexton (SWN), Vince Fiorelli (Chesapeake Utilities), Carl Roberts (Chamber Government Relations), Tammy Edwards (DBED), Scott Flanigan (DPW), Donna Tapley (Bainbridge Development Corp.) Vicky Rinkerman (Town of Port Deposit), Stephanie Palko (Cecil Guardian), Nancy Valentine (Citizen), Donna Guns (Cecil Guardian), George Kaplan (Citizen), Mie Mie Strickler (Citizen), Linda Reed (Paul Risk & Associates).

Call to Order & Welcome

Mike Ratchford called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. The Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2015 were approved.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Mike Ratchford discussed the following:

- The County Executive will introduce the proposed FY16 budget on April 1, 2015;
- Economic Development Budget Hearing will be presented on April 23, 2015 at 2:00 pm;
- Reminded EDC Board Members to return their Ethics forms to Human Resources by April 30, 2015.

Dr. David Rudolph – Donaldson Brown Center

Dr. David Rudolph provided a brief update on the history of the Donaldson Brown Center.

- Owned by Frank Donaldson Brown;
- Educational component in Cecil County and the impact on the State of Maryland;
- University of Maryland inherited the Donaldson Brown Center after Frank Donaldson's death;
- Historical value;
- Economic impact for Cecil County;

Donna Tapley – Bainbridge Development Corporation

Donna Tapley provided a brief update on the Bainbridge Development Corporation.

Bainbridge State of Affairs

- Navy
 - Appraisal
 - Agreement with Navy
 - Remediation process
- Prospect Activity
 - Numerous prospects have shown interest
 - Gaps have been identified
 - Solutions
- Infrastructure
 - Proposed wastewater treatment plant
- Tome School
 - Long Term Plan
 - Situation of Memorial Hall
 - Community Outreach efforts

Critical Path

- Get the Navy across the finish line
- Land prospects
- Fund initial Port Deposit sewer module

EDC Key Support

- Support tenant/prospect activity
- Infrastructure support
- Transportation priority

Director's Report

- Legislation / Bill Review
- Bond Rating Updates / Meetings
- Toll Survey Responses reviewed w/Council
- State / County Business Friendly / Competitiveness responses
- Bainbridge & Utility needs updated
- NMTC Visionary Awards (2 from Cecil awarded)
- Canton Rail / CSX Rail meeting
- Meetings w/ North East & Port Deposit
- Broker updates
- WIB - Ec Competitiveness Update
- MEDA Award to Mike Ratchford - more to follow
- Prospect Activity - see attached

Economic Development Manager

- Visited 6 businesses regarding the Workforce Training Partnership (WTPG) program
- Processed two WTPG applications
- Met with Perryville Town Administrator
- Continued to assist with the toll survey
- Attended ribbon cutting for new, small business located in Perryville Outlets
- Met with County attorney and Finance Committee chair to discuss revolving loan fund
- Attended a two day IEDC course in Baltimore
- Attended several meetings: Business Engagement, CBRP & Cecil County Chamber
- Follow-up with DHCD regarding revolving loan fund and CDBG funds
- Meeting with WES
- Attended the NMTC Visionary awards
- Researched information for prospect

Agriculture Coordinator

- Over 600 people, including Governor Hogan and Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary of Agriculture, attended the annual Maryland Agriculture Council "Taste of Maryland
- Coordinated and conducted statewide AMPS (Agriculture Marketing Professionals) meeting in Annapolis to discuss ag concerns / challenges, ongoing Legislative Session and proposed legislation
- Coordinated and attended public informational / exploratory meeting regarding Food Hubs
- Coordinating public meeting to explore opportunity for ag-tourism signage in Cecil County
- Attended "Women in Ag" Conference in Dover
- Assisted with coordination of and attended Cecil County Young Farmers' Legislative Breakfast Attendees included Delegates Kevin Hornberger, Teresa Reilly, Andrew Cassilly, Jeff Ghrist, Mary O'Keefe (for U.S. Congressman Andy Harris) County Council President Robert Hodge, MD Farm Bureau Executive Director, Valerie Connelly and Mike Dawson, Register of Wills
- Coordination with two Cecil County businesses to increase efficiency, savings, and manufacturing jobs
- Working with MPT for the Third Series of Maryland Home and Harvest program

Tourism Coordinator

- Cecil Tourism "hits the road" during the winter travel season
- Part of organizing committee for Maryland Tourism Day 2015
- Part of presentation to Eastern Shore Delegation during Tourism Day in Annapolis
- Chaired the SMI booth at the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg
- Festival Committee for Bassmaster Elite underway
- Marketing Committee for Bassmaster Elite underway
- Gave tourism presentation at the North East Chamber
- Exhibited at the Philadelphia Inquirer Travel Show in Valley Forge
- Exhibited at the Greater Philadelphia Outdoor Show in Oaks, PA

Economic Development Coordinator

- Assisted Broadband Task Force by furthering research relating to broadband connectivity in Cecil County
- Attended Bassmaster Elite Festival Committee and Marketing Committee Meetings
- Attended "Meet the Minihanes" with North East Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals
- Reviewed and proofread content for regional marketing publication "Eastern Shore Economic Development"
- Secured space and delivered advertisements in several industry publications
- Attended ribbon cutting ceremony for Git Lit Scents, a new small business located in Perryville Outlet Center

- Updated social media outlets regularly to promote events and share news about Cecil County
- Completed and proofread Office of Economic Development Newsletter for March

Subcommittee Reports

Education/Workforce – Denise Davis reported on the following:

- Edgewood Biological Center visit

Technology – Norman Gaither reported on the following:

- Meeting with Axcel on April 3, 2015;
- Presentation at the June 3, 2015 EDC Meeting.

Land Use – No report.

Finance – Bob Palsgrove reported on the following:

- Seeking to tie finance programs into the Incubator Program.

Communications – No report.

Adjournment

Chairman Mike Ratchford adjourned the meeting at 9:23 am. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 8:00 am, Cecil College.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McCann
Administrative Assistant