

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
1/8/14

PRESENT:

Michael Ratchford (Chairman), Dr. Stephen Pannell (Cecil College President), Chick Hamm (PNC Bank), Grove Miller (Agriculture), Charlestown Administrator Dr. Robert Gell, Dr. D'Ette Devine (CCPS), Norman Gaither (NorArk Executive Group), Rupert Rossetti (Citizen), Town of Perryville Doreen Smith, JoAnn Dawson (Fairwinds Farm), Denise Davis (CCPL), Danny DeMarinis (University Research Park).

STAFF: Director Lisa Webb, Joanne Richart-Young, Susan O'Neill, Sandy Turner.

ABSENT:

Council President Robert Hodge, Town of Chesapeake City Mayor Dean Geracimos, Paula Gilley (Mason Dixon Realty), Woody Jackson, Andrew Jodlbauer, and Bill Kilby, Robin McCann (Economic Development), Bob Palsgrove (Columbia Bank), Town of Rising Sun Mayor Robert Fisher, Grove Miller (Agriculture), Mike Travers (Cecil Dance Center), Linda Burris (Delmarva Power), Bruce England (SWN), Mike Lara (ATK), Dr. Ken Lewis (Union Hospital), North East Town Mayor Robert McKnight, Town of Elkton Jeanne Miner, Town of Port Deposit Mayor Wayne Tome, Town of Cecilton Mayor Joseph Zang.

GUESTS:

Director Scott Flanigan (Cecil County Public Works Director), Kathy Kunda (Elkton Alliance), Diane Lane (Cecil College), Tammy Edwards (DBED), Vince Fiorelli (Chesapeake Utilities), Alan Sexton (SWN), Councilwoman Diana Broomell, David Strauss (McCrone), Linda McLeod (Columbia Bank).

Call to Order & Welcome

Mike Ratchford called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. The Meeting Minutes for December 8, 2013 were approved as e-mailed.

Chairman's Report

Mike Ratchford presented an update on the following upcoming events:

1. Cecil County Chamber of Commerce presents Cecil Night in Annapolis on Thursday, January 9, 2014.
2. Strategic Plan Action Network (SPAN) update, members were encouraged to go on-line to provide written feedback (www.ccgov.org/SPAN.pdf; www.surveymonkey.com/s/strategicplan14).

SPAN Update

Diane Lane reported on the following:

1. Mission
2. Merging opportunities and needs
3. Online survey
4. Establishing goals and objectives
5. Highest priorities

Legislative Update

1. Delegate David Rudolph discussed the Legislative process regarding Bills once they have been submitted to the Legislators in Annapolis. He also discussed his concerns regarding drug abuse/healthcare, liquor bill, sludge bill, education/tuition. He encouraged the EDC to review the legislative bills online. Delegate David Rudolph also provided a Regional Rail update on MARC Service.

Director's Report

Director Lisa Webb reported on the following:

1. Hosted Minahasa Delegation.
2. Participated in the ODEC/Transco Pipeline Open House.
3. Prepared Personnel request for FY15 (Marketing Specialist).
4. Presentation to SWN Staff.
5. Prepared Broadband Survey (IT & Chamber collaborated).
6. Presentation to China Investors.
7. Update meeting from Hollywood Casino.
8. Ongoing interviews for Economic Development Coordinator position.
9. Preparations for Cecil Night in Annapolis.
10. Met with three prospects, prepared statement of capabilities.
11. Assisted prospect with permitting issues.

Department Report

Economic Development Manager Susan O'Neill reported on the following:

1. Enterprise Zone Resolution approved through Council.
2. Processed necessary State paperwork for the EZ tax credit applications.
3. Participated in EAGB Annual meeting.
4. Participated in Heat Center meeting at Hollywood Casino.
5. Participated in Cecil County Airport meeting.
6. Participation in meeting with Union Hospital and their broadband needs.
7. Assisted SWN subcommittee with EARN grant application.
8. Working with four Small Business prospects.
9. Working with Peninsula Industrial Park.

Agriculture Report

Joanne Richart-Young reported on the following;

1. Coordinating with USRC on the update of the Harvest Directory and Social Media Workshop.
2. Meeting at Mount Harmon Plantation final planning of Scenic Byway Grant for interpretive signage.
3. Coordinated nomination of Cecil County Public Library for MEDA Award.
4. Attended Maryland State Farm Bureau Convention.
5. MPT series titled: "Maryland Farm & Harvest" continues to be aired Tuesday nights through February 11th – Cecil County farms/farmers are featured in several of the segments.
6. Final planning for Annie's Class 2014 – 1st of eight Wednesday night classes begin January 22, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm in the Cecil County Government Administration Building.
7. Coordinated with local grower/producers to provide products/ingredients for Cecil Night in Annapolis.

Tourism Update

Sandy Turner reported on the following:

1. Tourism promoted holiday events via Facebook, radio (WXCY, WJBR, and WYPR), and in print.
2. Assisted with Christmas events in North East, Elk Landing, Mt. Harmon Plantation, Port Deposit, and Elkton.
3. Held Annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception at Principio Mansion.
4. Book Marketing for Spring 2014.
5. Developing two new committees: 1) Focus on creating a bid to host Bassmaster Elite Tournament; 2) Develop stronger social media plan for 2014.
6. Complete distribution of the Tourism Business Survey.
7. Organize "Maryland Tourism Day in Annapolis" scheduled January 31st.
8. Attend the Philadelphia Inquirer Travel Show in Valley Forge, January 2014.

Marketing Report

1. Update database
2. December Newsletter
3. Social Media updates

Subcommittee Reports

Education/Workforce – Denise Davis reported on the Countywide Strategic Plan and the Public Commission Plan.

Technology – Norman Gaither reported that the Technology Committee met with Delegate David Rudolph and confirmed the Technology education, economic mobility, and social issues.

Land Use – Rupert Rossetti reported on Infrastructure in the Growth Corridor and TDR's. He also requested to have a future EDC Presentation by David Black on GIS capabilities.

Finance – Chick Hamm reported on the Workforce Technical Training Grant and finalizing the next steps.

Communications – JoAnn Dawson discussed future Marketing Specialist needs for Economic Development and will support through the budget process.

Director Lisa Webb advised that the County Council Budget Review is scheduled for April 1, 2014.

Chairman Mike Ratchford asked if a letter of support would be appropriate for the Economic Development Committee. Members of the Economic Development Committee voted in favor of the letter of support. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mike Ratchford adjourned the meeting at 9:00 am. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 8:00 am, Cecil College, Room TC208.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McCann
Administrative Assistant

