

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2018

PRESENT

Dr. Mary Bolt (Cecil College), Walter Buck (Citizen), JoAnn Dawson (Fairwinds), Danny DeMarinis (URP), Bruce England (SWN), Paula Gilley (Citizen), Woody Jackson (Citizen), Sandy Maruchi-Turner (Tourism), Morgan Miller (CCPL), Chris Moyer (Director of Economic Development), Robert Palsgrove (WSFS), Michael Ratchford (W.L. Gore & Associates), Rupert Rossetti (Citizen), Dan Schneckeburger (County Council), Mike Travers (Cecil Dancercenter)

ABSENT

Linda Burris (Delmarva Power), D'Ette Devine (CCPS), Scott Holland (i-Lighting), Michael Lara (Orbital ATK), Grove Miller (Citizen), Dr. Carl Roberts (Chamber Government Relations), Dr. Rich Szumel (Union Hospital)

GUESTS

Tammy Edwards (Dept. of Commerce), Vince Fiorelli (Chesapeake Utilities), Scott Flanigan (Cecil County DPW), Kathy Kunda (Elkton Alliance), Alan McCarthy (Cecil County Executive), Mayor Bob McKnight (Town of North East), Bob Meffley (Cecil County Council), Jeanne Minner (Town of Elkton), Billy Nelson (Town of Perryville), Sharon Pelham (APGFCU), Alan Sexton (SWN), D. Strouss (McCrone), Katy Tabeling (Cecil Whig)

Call to Order & Welcome

- The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.
- Introductions were made by all in attendance.
- Minutes from December 6, 2017 meeting were approved.

Chairman's Report – Mike Ratchford

- January 11th – Cecil Night in Annapolis
 - Afternoon sessions and evening event – see County website for particulars
- January 29th – Annual State of the County Breakfast, Schaeffer's, 8:00 am

Director's Report – Chris Moyer

- Posting Economic Development Manager position this week
- Received some applicants for Economic Development Coordinator position. Will start interviewing next week.
- Posting Agriculture Coordinator position after Manager position closes.
- In February, EDC will be hearing about some exciting broadband possibilities for providing better broadband infrastructure
 - February or March – Vince Fiorelli will present to EDC
- Conducting Town Meetings on quarterly basis
 - In December had great discussions regarding next steps to leverage downtown economic development and spearhead economic development throughout the County.

- Branding Creative Workshop – have creative subcommittee –will be creative sublayer – plan to reach out to people – welcome participation on process

Chairman's Additional Comments – Mike Ratchford

- County's interest has been well served by Jason, Susan, and Joanne's service – Joanne in particular with her long service and advocacy for the agricultural community – now have to recast department and move forward
- Branding Initiative – colleague at Gore involved
- By statute, each town has a seat on the EDC
 - Need to bring towns and County into closer working relationship from an economic development standpoint
 - Have decided to invite the mayors of each town to speak to the EDC about what is going on (economic development) in their town.

North East Update was presented by Mayor Robert McKnight, Town of North East

- Would like to thank Dr. McCarthy and Chris for what they have done for the towns.
- Cooperation between County and towns is exciting.
- They have reached out to each town –looking at things going on and how the County can help us.
- Towns have been territorial in past – have forgotten we are all part of the same team
- We are excited that things are happening in North East – on cutting edge for a number of years.
- A lot going on downtown - Encourage everyone to come see North East for themselves
 - Bridge – activity on bridge again – assured we will have a bridge going into downtown some day
 - Original design was one lane only – insisted on redesign with two lanes of traffic
 - Projected completion date April 2019
 - Will be building a 3rd lane in order to shift traffic during construction
- Issued 20 new business licenses – 20 new businesses opened in 2017
- Working with Alan to create a flowchart for site development, permits, etc. so people can see how process occurs (where you are, next step, how to keep it moving, etc.) – want to have transparency and streamline process
- Elk Manor Rehab—Have rehabbed all those buildings
- Annexed Pat's Pizza property on Rt. 40
- Chesapeake Utilities – Excited to have them in North East
- Town closer to putting together a deal with Artesian Water
- Library – Excited about it – Met with design team – Huge opportunity for North East and the County
- New developer in Ridgely Forest – started when Clark Turner had hard times
 - Town has kept it open and moving – 129 single family homes
- North East Commons rezoned to allow for different uses
- Signature Events:
 - Cecil County Salute to Veterans – had in excess of \$15,000 people attend just on land, not including people on water
 - Christmas Parade – over 10,000 people in town
 - Events called Cecil County because want it to be Countywide, not just North East event.
- Working on EDC for the Town - young people who want to help their government with new and good ideas

- Hope to be up and running 1st Quarter 2018
- Town of 4,000 people
- \$6M water and general budget

County Executive – Alan McCarthy

- Like to thank Mayor McKnight - first mayor I worked with in Cecil County
- County cannot move forward unless we bring towns with us.
- In 2017 probably accomplished more in one year than last 20 years
- 2018 will be a better year – people see value of coming together instead of fractioning everything
- Cecil will be one of the most motivated counties in Maryland.
- Need to brand County, not towns – County must be the focal point

Subcommittee Reports:

Education/Workforce – Dr. Mary Bolt (Cecil College)

- Will see new signage denoting Cecil College 50th Anniversary
- Early College Academy – students taking college courses and getting college degrees before finishing high school – Oxford Area students will be graduating; Launching to CCPS in the Fall
- Approval of Addictions Counseling Certification
- Have final approval of Public Health Associate Degrees
- Engineering Degrees that transfer to 4-year schools, Looking at Engineering Technician Certificate
- Additive Manufacturing - Certificate and Degree programs
- HVAC – more to come
- Cecil County Home School Program launched this year

Education/Workforce – Morgan Miller (CCPL)

- Invested in new Library in North East
- Town of North East has worked with us on pedestrian and vehicular access
- Meetings for Community to meet with Architect coming up – Terri will distribute to Members and Attendees
- Going to Boys & Girls Club to talk with teens after school.
- Going to North East Elementary to do some design workshops with students.
- Will meet with parents and early childhood providers for preschool.
- Will have a public impact survey
- Shopping center sold where new Library is to be constructed. New owners should be wonderful partners.

Workforce - Bruce England

- Grants acquired for economic development for businesses, attracting businesses and for training programs.
- Three Programs discussed last month: Manufacturing, Warehouse Distribution and IT Cyber programs will all be coming on line. Start date first week of February.
 - Opportunity for employers for training of existing employees.

Technology – Danny DeMarinis

- On hold.
- Want to leverage TEDCO grant to do a manufacturing seminar.
 - Idea is to be a service provided effort that would fall under the Incubator. Another opportunity to showcase interest in Incubator.
 - If still of interest, will work with new Economic Development person to tie in with what Bruce and Morgan are doing to bring the Incubator onboard.

Land Use – Rupert Rossetti

- On hold.
- Result of tour of Colora farms last month, Tourism interested in putting that on their work list. Connecting fresh local food with restaurants

Finance – Bob Palsgrove

- Cecil Catalyst was approved by Council. Next step put infrastructure together and committee.

Communications – JoAnn Dawson

- Committee meeting with Jen Lyall, Public Information Officer
- Want to be involved with Branding Initiative going forward.

County Executive – Dr. Alan McCarthy

- Brought over 1,000 acres of open space in County last year.
- Council passed supplement appropriation to make Brantwood Golf Course a usable recreational facility

The report will be available via OED website.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Our next EDC meeting will be on February 7, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at Cecil College, Room TC208.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Springel
Administrative Assistant