

KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Economic Development Advisory Board Meeting Minutes June 4, 2014

Board Members Present: Jim Rich, Chairman, John Carroll, Vice Chair, Bob Ampula,
Ron Athey, Tom Beckett, Bob Jacob
Board Members Absent: Dan MacLeod, Zoe Schneider

Jim Rich called the meeting to order at 4:05 P.M. John Carroll motioned to approve the minutes of May 07, 2014; motion was seconded by Tom Beckett and carried.

Also in attendance: Ernie Crofoot, Commissioner Short, Jamie Williams, Bernadette Bowman, Michelle Wood, Amy Moredock, Loretta Lodge, Doris Mason

Economic Development Office: New Structure

~ Effective immediately, all functions of the Economic Development Office will be moved to the County Commissioners' Office. County Administrator Ernie Crofoot will be the point of contact for economic development concerns. He will work collaboratively with the County Commissioners and other county departments, primarily the departments of Planning, Housing & Zoning, IT, and Water and Waste Water. Bob Ampula stated that SCORE too is available as a resource to him.
~ The Commissioners intend to track and study the influx of development concerns from start to finish to better gauge whether a separate department is needed.
~ The committee discussed its role within the new structure, particularly as it relates to the Economic Development Plan, approved by the Commissioners in October of last year. As there is a great deal of expertise within the group, and given the complexity of the Plan, the Board will be looked upon to voice their opinions and thoughts. Ernie feels the more active the Board is, the more strength they will have.

Old Business:

~ Regional Marketing Proposal Booklet

~ At a previous meeting, the Board approved Kent County's participation in a regional Economic Development booklet. Journal Communications, the company producing the booklet, will be contacting the County about assisting with editorial content recommendations.
~ Ernie suggested this would be a good project for the Board, the Upper Shore Regional Council and Planning, Housing & Zoning.
~ 10,000 copies will be printed.

~ Worton Business Park

~ The two remaining lots were sold to Eastern Shore Tents and Events. The Commissioners are happy to have the sale completed and to have kept the company in the county.

New Business:

~ County Website

~ Beginning September 1, the County will be managing its own website. As part of the sales contract, the County will be purchasing the intellectual property of the current webmaster.
~ Ernie asked the Board to review the Economic Development pages, and would like their ideas and suggestions for ways to improve. He asked that they send their thoughts to him or bring to the July meeting where the website will be an agenda item.

~ Miscellaneous

~ Commissioner Short announced that Cecil County will be attending next month's meeting to hear Scott's report.
~ Bob Ampula will not be in attendance at the July meeting, and asked if he could get a copy of Scott's report. The report will be emailed to him.
~ An updated Board roster will be sent to Board members.
~ Mindie Burgoyne was unable to meet with the Board today. Instead, she will be attending the July meeting.
~ Jim reported that the Rock Hall Triathlon, held last weekend, was a huge success. The event has become so successful that their organizers will be hosting a half-Ironman event in October; 700 athletes have already signed up to participate.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 2, 2014, at 4:00 P.M. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.