



**Audio recordings of the Economic and Tourism Development Commission meetings can be found on the Recordings Tab.**

**January 12, 2022**

Commission Members Present: Tracey Williams, Aaron Bramble, Rob Thompson, Dick Story, and Suzanne Einstein

Commission Members Absent: Chikki Shajwani and Sandy Scott

Also in Attendance: Jamie Williams, Director, Katie Wright, Economic Development Manager, Jana Carter, Tourism Manager, Shalyn Boulden, Administrative Specialist, Economic and Tourism Development; Shelley Heller, County Administrator

At 3:01 p.m. Mr. Bramble called the meeting to order. Mr. Bramble requested a motion to approve minutes from the December 8, 2021, meeting. On motion by Mr. Thompson and second by Mr. Story, the December 8, 2021, minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. Williams shared information from Governor Hogan's press conference on January 11, 2022. Governor Hogan announced his priorities for the 2022 legislative session. It included elimination of all retirement taxes for retirees, making the earned income tax credit permanent, More Jobs for Marylanders Act 3.0 to extend to 2027, eliminating the \$300.00 personal property tax filing fee, eliminating the \$100.00 filing fee for family farms, and making Project Restore permanent. Ms. Williams shared that the Rock Hall Enterprise Zone has been approved and the press release has been issued from the Maryland Department of Commerce and the department has received several inquiries.

Ms. Carter shared she is currently fielding requests from journalists for spotlighting Kent County from the Maryland Office of Tourism. A three-month digital media campaign is being launched with target areas including Washington DC, Philadelphia, Virginia Beach, Northern Virginia, and Baltimore. The process has begun to redesign and publish an updated visitor's guide. The monthly Tourism newsletter is garnering positive engagement and we have seen an increase in subscribers from social media promotion. Maryland Tourism Day is scheduled for February 1, 2022, Destination Marketing Organizations can talk with legislators regarding the State's budget for Tourism and Tourism related legislation.

Ms. Wright shared ads that are currently being developed and branding consistency within the department and within Kent County Government. The Rock Hall Enterprise Zone was approved and a press release from The Maryland Department of Commerce was issued. The Upper Shore Micro Ag Grant is opening on January 15, 2022, and closing on February 18, 2022, with \$40,000 in funds allocated.

Ms. Williams went through the edits to the draft 2022 Economic and Tourism Development Strategic Plan from the conversations at the December Commission meeting. Revisions were discussed to ensure the sentiments shared were conveyed in the document

properly. Ms. Williams will share the final document with Commission members prior to submitting to the County Commissioners for adoption by resolution.

Mr. Bramble shared that Mr. Shajwani had submitted a notice of resignation due to other commitments. The membership committee met and discussed the list of interested candidates and provided the Commission with a recommendation through email. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson to approve the recommendation of the membership committee to the County Commissioners to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Shajwani, the motion was seconded by Mr. Story, and carried unanimously. Ms. Williams will submit the recommendation to the County Commissioners for consideration.

Nancy LaJoice, Senior Business Development Representative, Maryland Department of Commerce shared Mike Gill is back as the Secretary of Commerce. Ms. LaJoice previously shared the Department of Housing and Community Development is expected to announce additional Project Restore awards at the end of January. Ms. Williams shared that Kent County had five projects approved in the initial announcement.

Jack Schammel, TEDCO RBII Mentor, has been working with True Ultraviolet previously known as Ultraviolet Technologies is working on development of ultraviolet light to sanitize medial devices and is receiving support from TEDCO.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Einstein, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:58 p.m. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD, Director