



**Audio recordings of the Economic Development Commission meetings can be found at Recordings Tab.**

**May 5, 2021**

Commission Members Present: Aaron Bramble, Tracey Williams, Dick Story, Jim Luff, Rob Thompson, and Kate Gray

Commission Members Absent: Cindy Genter

Also in Attendance: Jamie Williams, Director, Katie Wright, Economic Development Manager and Jana Carter, Tourism Manager, Economic & Tourism Development; Shelley Heller, County Administrator; Bob Jacob, County Commissioner

At 3:02 p.m. Mr. Bramble called the meeting to order. Mr. Bramble requested a motion to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2021, meeting. On motion by Mr. Luff and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the April 7, 2021, meeting.

Bill Mackey, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning provided an update of the department and projects. On April 14, the Comprehensive Rezoning Update Task Force reviewed the first half of an 18-item list of the Task Force Members' own specific requests for text changes to the Land Use Ordinance. On April 28, the Task Force held a Public Forum to hear comments from the public regarding the specific text changes submitted by members of the public and the Task Force members.

The Planning Commission granted a preliminary approval for Great Oak Manor requesting that staff research any past limitations on the number of events and attendees. The Animal Shelter, the Pep-up LP gas facility, and Dr. Smack's historic adaptive reuse for a wine-tasting facility were all voted upon favorably. The Board of Appeals approved an application by Dr. and Mrs. Smack for a wine-tasting facility via a special exception for the adaptive reuse of a historic structure on their property located at 22622 Handy Point Road. The Technical Advisory Committee reviewed an application by Our Children - Tomorrow's Leaders for an administrative special exception to permit a daycare center at 932 Washington Ave.

Jamie Williams shared Kent County's Datatstory. It was made possible through the partnership with the Upper Shore Regional Council. Ms. Williams shared it will be available on the County website, promoted on social media and used to share Kent County's story in pictures with anyone interested in starting a business, visiting, working, or living in Kent County.

Ms. Williams shared Code Home Rule 4-2021 Economic & Tourism Development, effective May 21, 2021. This is the last meeting of the Economic Development Commission, and the Tourism Development Advisory Board meets on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The June meeting will be the first meeting of the new Economic and Tourism Development Commission. The date and time will be determined by surveying the remaining members of the board and commission for consensus.

Ms. Williams reported the Career Technology Education Liaison for Kent and Queen Anne's Counties has been selected and is scheduled to start on June 1, 2021.

Ms. Wright shared grant applications are set up in a manner that all required documents be submitted with the online application. In addition to providing an overview on each grant program on the Kent County Grants webpage, Ms. Wright included a list of all items applicants will need to submit a complete application. The department is in the process of reviewing the applications received for the Maryland Relief Act 2021 grant programs.

The photo contest is active, the entry process was recently revised to make it easier for people to submit photos from their mobile devices.

Ads for both Economic and Tourism development for Cooperative Living have been submitted. Ms. Wright is currently working on Economic Development print ads for Business Facilities and Expansion Solutions. Ms. Williams will be submitting editorial for both.

Ms. Wright reported job postings continue to produce great results and high engagement. Businesses and employers continue to reach out for help promoting open positions. Last month, the Department met with a local business to help them brainstorm ideas to help with employee recruitment. That session led to the idea of doing a County wide job fair once the State of Emergency is lifted and unemployment starts requiring all beneficiaries to apply for week again.

Ms. Carter reported that the 2021 visitor's guide has been sent to the printer, and the Department expects to receive them by the end of the month. Ms. Carter shared the truck campaign graphics, adding that it is a three-month campaign, and the truck will make deliveries in the Philadelphia and Wilmington areas.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Luff, seconded by Ms. Gray, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD, Director  
Department of Economic & Tourism Development