



**Audio recordings of the Economic Development Commission meetings can be found at <https://www.kentcounty.com/economic-development/board-meetings> click on the ‘Audio Recordings Tab’.**

**September 2, 2020**

Commission Members Present: Jim Luff, Tracey Williams, Rob Thompson, Dick Story, and Cindy Genter

Commission Members Absent: Kate Gray and Aaron Bramble

Also in Attendance: Shelley Heller, County Administrator; Jamie Williams, Director, Economic Development; Jana Carter, Assistant Director, Tourism Development

At 3:02 p.m. Mr. Luff called the meeting to order. Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve the minutes from the August 5, 2020 meeting. On motion by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Genter, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the August 5, 2020 meeting.

Jamie Williams apologized for not reaching out to Planning, Housing, and Zoning for an update prior to the meeting.

Ms. Williams began the conversation by introducing Ms. Carter and sharing the recent staff departures within the Economic and Tourism Development departments. These departures provided an opportunity to evaluate the current structure and determine the best path forward for Kent County. The departmental structures, the board/commission, and the budgets were discussed in detail. Mr. Story volunteered to lead a sub-committee consisting of a member of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) and a member of the Tourism Development Advisory Board (TDAB) that would meet and develop a recommendation to be discussed at the October EDC and TDAB meetings, prior to making a recommendation to the County Commissioners. Mr. Story will report back to the EDC at the October meeting.

Ms. Williams shared the Kent CARES Business Consultant will be providing a workshop, The Importance of Understanding Business Financials on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Data center attraction efforts continue, and sub-committees have been meeting and discussing specific components, such as land use and marketing tactics. A tri-fold brochure has been developed and will be sent to the printer soon. A Data Center Attraction – Continuing the Conversation discussion has been scheduled for September 23, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. and continues the conversation that was started with the Kent County Chamber of Commerce discussion recently held. Speakers are being confirmed now.

Ms. Williams shared the opportunity to present Kent County to the Data Center Coalition at a Data Center Event being hosted by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce on October 7, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. The Commission members agreed to move the October meeting to the second Wednesday of the month.

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Nancy LaJoice, Senior Business Development Representative, Maryland Department of Commerce shared that State grant notifications have resumed for a second round of funding and if a business that had previously applied receives an email it is legitimate. If there are any questions please reach out to her.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Story, seconded by Ms. Williams and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:50 pm. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 3:00 pm in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD  
Director