

Economic Development Commission
The County Commissioners of Kent County
400 High Street
Chestertown, MD 21620

September 6, 2017

Commission Members Present: Cindy Genter, Jim Luff, Rob Thompson, Mary Ford, Aaron Bramble, Shreyas Suresh, Tracey Williams, and Bob Jacob

Commission Members Absent: Kate Gray

Also in Attendance: Trae Hoffner, Washington College Student

At 3:03 p.m. the meeting convened. Mr. Luff called the meeting to order and welcomed new commission member, Tracey Williams.

Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2017, meeting. On motion by Ms. Genter and seconded by Mr. Thompson, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the August 2, 2017, meeting.

Ms. Williams shared that the County had recently migrated from Google Apps to Outlook Office 365. The Commission members should be receiving a weekly report on Monday morning with the previous weeks' economic development activities. Members were encouraged to reach out if they wanted any further information on a particular topic mentioned in the report. The minutes are emailed prior to the meetings and members are encouraged to communicate any errors or corrections. An email is also sent when the agenda is posted. Ms. Williams wanted to ensure everyone was getting the emails as new groups were set up for distribution.

The Economic Development Marketing Plan is complete, and a draft will be provided for discussion at the October meeting.

Ms. Genter expressed the value of getting the Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) agenda and information, that is forwarded from Planning, Housing, and Zoning. Mr. Luff shared that we are looking at jobs, capital investment, and impact on tax revenues in relation to the projects identified.

The Commission members were asked to review the mission statement and vision in the Economic Development Plan 2017. The economic summary needs to be reviewed. The data was taken from the Maryland Department of Commerce's website and agriculture seems grossly understated compared to the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Ms. Williams is hopeful the Economic Modeling (Emsi) software will be available to the County shortly. The Emsi software will allow us to pull consistent data for comparison and provide historical and trending economic data for planning. Ms. Genter suggested clarification on how a major or small business is defined.

Approval of the Draft Economic Development Strategic Plan On motion by Ms. Genter and seconded by Mr. Thompson, the Commission unanimously approved the

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Ms. Genther recommended structuring the agenda to review the goals outlined in the Economic Development Strategic Plan. This would ensure continuous focus on the goals and allow the Commission to monitor progress.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Bramble, seconded by Ms. Williams, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:27 p.m. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams
Coordinator