

Economic Development Advisory Board
Kent County, Maryland

December 3, 2014

Board Members Present: James Rich, Chair, Ron Athey, Dan MacLeod, Robert Jacob, Thomas Beckett, and Zoe Schneider.

Board Members Absent: Robert Ampula, and John Carroll

Also in attendance: Commissioner William Short, Ernest Crofoot, County Administrator, Scott Boone, Director, Information Technology, and Jim Luff.

At 4:00 p.m. the meeting convened.

On motion by Mr. Beckett and seconded by Mr. Athey the minutes from the November 5, 2014, meeting were approved.

Mr. Rich shared that he had visited Tracy Davenport, Owner, Smoothie Shop at the shop and Mrs. Davenport is experiencing good and bad days and thanked the Board for their support.

Bob Jacobs expressed his concerns with Wave Vision's (previously Bay Broadband) customer service and lack of accurate information. Commissioner Short stated that the County has the same concerns. Commissioner Short asked the value of Wave Vision's business in Kent County. Mr. Rich asked about performance standards.

Mr. Athey advised that KRM Development and Washington College have entered into a tentative partnership to explore options for developing the 70 acre property known as Stepne Manor. The agreement is to have a six month timeline for exploring options to develop the land, looking for ways to enhance Chestertown and attract new residents in an effort to stimulate business growth and job opportunities.

Jamie Williams, Deputy Clerk, Commissioners' Office, shared that the ad for Journal Communications deadline was December 8, 2014. After a brief discussion the Board decided to use one of the existing tag lines, on the current Economic Development website, and rearrange some of the wording. Ms. Williams is acquiring pictures from local businesses and organizations to represent agriculture, manufacturing, health care, watermen, tourism, and education to incorporate in the ad, demonstrating the diversity of Kent County. Mr. Beckett identified that culture should be represented and all agreed. Commissioner Short suggested a Quick Response (QR) code to lead readers to the Economic Development website.

Mr. Crofoot shared DLLR is having a business service partner information meeting on Monday, December 8, 2014, at Chesapeake College. The meeting deals with Job Driven National Emergency Grant, The key to Unlocking Labor Marketing Information, and Workforce Act Changes. Mr. Crofoot will attend from 9 a.m. to noon.

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Ernie Crofoot, County Administrator advised that at the University of Maryland there is an operation Maryland Industrial Partnerships and twice a year Maryland Industrial Partnerships award grants to applicants who are successful with various projects. Mr. Crofoot is assisting with reviewing the applications and has submitted written comments for three applications. The next round of applicants will be reviewed in the spring of 2015.

Mr. Crofoot extended an invitation for Board members to attend the Planning Commission Meetings when there are items on the agenda that could have an Economic Development impact. The Planning Commission members have also been invited to attend Economic Development Advisory Board meetings. Ms. Williams will coordinate emails to both board members with upcoming agendas.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m., and the board agreed to meet again on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams

Deputy Clerk