



Recordings of the Economic and Tourism Development Commission (ETDC) meetings can be found on the Meeting Archive Tab.

January 10, 2024

Commission Members Present: Richard Story, David Bowman, Paula Reeder, Charlie Athey, and Judy Gifford

Commission Members Absent: Aaron Bramble and Sandy Scott

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

At 3:00 p.m. Mr. Story called the meeting to order. Mr. Story requested a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2023, meeting. On a motion by Ms. Reeder, seconded by Mr. Bowman, the December 13, 2023, minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. Williams reached out to Brian Pearsall, Emergency Preparedness Planner, Office of Emergency Services to inquire about businesses adversely affected by the storm. We would work with businesses affected with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to share information about available programs. The Small Business Administration does have a disaster relief program.

Mr. Story advised that per the ETDC Bylaws, the Commission is required to nominate and elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and members of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Story advised that the assumption is that the Vice-Chair would move up to Chair unless there was opposition expressed. A motion was made by Ms. Reeder, seconded by Mr. Athey, and carried unanimously to approve Mr. Story as Chair. Mr. Athey volunteered to fill the Vice-Chair position. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Reeder, and carried unanimously to approve Mr. Athey as the Vice-Chair. Mr. Story advised that the Chair, the Director, and one or two members serve as the nominating committee. Ms. Reeder and Mr. Bowman expressed an interest in serving on the nominating committee. A motion was made by Mr. Athey, seconded by Mr. Story, and carried unanimously to approve Ms. Reeder and Mr. Bowman as members of the nominating committee.

Ms. Williams advised that the nominating committee made their recommendation to the Commission to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of Mr. Bramble's term. Ms. Williams advised that the recommendation will be forwarded to the County Commissioners for appointment on January 23, 2024. Ms. Reeder made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bowman, and carried unanimously to approve the recommended candidate the County Commissioners for appointment.

Dan Divilio, Public Relations/Communications Specialist, Kent County Public Schools (KCPS), shared a flyer for an informational meeting for the Apprenticeship Maryland Program. The program connects high school students with paid apprenticeships with local businesses. The meeting will be held in Worton on January 30, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Local businesses that currently participate include Willards, Red Acres, Chesapeake CNC, Greenscapes, Owings & Sons, Dixon Valve, and Horsey Construction. The goal is to double the number of businesses participating in the program. Mr. Divilio advised there are class participation credits and certifications associated with the apprenticeship program, clarifying this is an apprenticeship and not an internship. The targeted industries align with the nine [Career and Technical Education \(CTE\)](#) pathways available to Kent County High School students.

Mr. Divilio shared that Dr. Couch announced her retirement effective June 30, 2024. KCPS will initiate an organized search for her replacement. There will be an open meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the KCPS Administration building in Rock Hall. Mr. Divilio advised that this is not a Public Hearing, but it is open to the public to attend without comment, sharing that community stakeholders will be included in the process, and it is the intention of KCPS to be completely transparent during the hiring process.

Mr. Story requested the Commission members consider anyone within the community or subject matter specialists outside the County that can be invited to speak on topics for future meetings. Ms. Williams shared that HomePorts and a 2023 Real Estate Review are scheduled for the February meeting.

Ms. Gifford expressed an interest in having a budget meeting with Ms. Heller and/or Ms. Merritt. Ms. Heller advised that the budget kickoff meeting will be scheduled in April with an anticipated overview.

Ms. Williams advised of a bus trip with Washington College Makerspace to visit three innovation centers on January 16, 2024. They will visit one center in Cambridge and two in the Salisbury area. Ms. Williams and Ms. Reeder plan to attend. Ms. Williams shared that she and Rosemary Granillo, Director, Local Management Board, will be participating in a three-month course on stakeholder engagement and the feasibility study for the Makerspace grant received from TEDCO.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Athey, seconded by Ms. Reeder, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 p.m. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD
Director