



Washington County Economic Development Commission

October 13, 2016

The regular meeting of the Washington County Economic Development Commission (EDC) was held at 100 West Washington Street, Suite 1401. The following members were present: Julie Rohm (Chair), Ed Lough (Vice Chair), Michael Reyka (Secretary), Gary Bockrath, Andrew Lobley, Joshua Martin, Theresa Shank, and Janet Stiles Fulton. Ex-Officio member in attendance was Jill Frick Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Hagerstown.

County staff in attendance included Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, James Jenkins, Kassie Lewis, Bob Mandley, Tabitha Porterfield, Phil Ridenour, Linda Spence, Sarah Sprecher, and Aaron Stoner. Others in attendance included Andrew Sargent and Nathaniel Moore.

Call to Order – Julie Rohm called the meeting to order. She reported Don Munson was excused from the meeting; and Steve Blickenstaff, Hugh Breslin, and Mike Fitzgerald were absent.

Approval of the Agenda – A motion to approve the meeting agenda for October 13, 2016 was made by Andrew Lobley, seconded by Ed Lough and unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes – Gary Bockrath motioned to approve the meeting minutes of September 8, 2016 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ed Lough and approved unanimously.

Elected Officials' Comments – No elected officials were present.

Director's Report – Kassie Lewis reported that Randy Teebest has been hired by the MD Department of Commerce to lend his expertise in the area of aviation and aeronautics industries. Mr. Teebest touted the Hagerstown Regional Airport (HGR) as a model airport for others in the State. Gary Bockrath explained that filling a position dedicated to the aviation and aeronautics industries will prove very helpful as we advance HGR's capabilities. Phil Ridenour noted a four-page list of businesses has been developed for recruitment to locate at the airport. He stated Frederick is looking to expand their runway but is not considered competition with HGR in relation to their industry focus. Ms. Lewis explained the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) passed legislation in 2014 to bring organizations together that provide employment services, allowing for greater coordination of services and resources. She announced the nomination of six local manufacturers' including Duvinage, DVF Corporation, Hagerstown Kitchens, HBP, Hub Labels, and Jamison Door to the Regional Manufacturing Institute's (RMI) 2016 Champions of Maryland Manufacturing. RMI will recognize all nominees at their dinner event on November 30 at Martin's West. Ms. Lewis noted Governor Hogan and his cabinet are scheduled to meet directly at 10:00 a.m. today at the Maryland Theatre. In addition, cabinet members will visit several facilities throughout the day. Ms. Lewis plans to attend meetings at DLLR with Secretary Kelly Shulz and with Secretary Mike Gill at Fives Landis.

Executive Committee – Julie Rohm reiterated the importance of each member to be held to the EDC Ordinance and Disclosure Statement, emphasizing "...Improper use for personal gain on confidential information acquired through a member's position on the Commission may be grounds for removal from the Commission by the Board of County Commissioners." After some discussion, members agreed the Project Status Report or "Gold Sheet" should and will be collected at the conclusion of Closed Session.

City Center Committee – On behalf of Mike Fitzgerald, Ed Lough noted the City Center scheduled its first meeting for October 26 at 8:30 a.m., to be held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Professional Arts Building.

Education and Workforce Development Committee – Julie Rohm introduced Nathaniel “Nat” Moore as the newest member of the committee. Mr. Moore is currently employed with Aerotek, a staffing agency. He stated his primary focus is manufacturing and distribution industries with a strong interest in workforce development. Theresa Shank inquired about the committee’s direction and vision. Ms. Rohm explained it is the charge of each committee to identify appropriate members to serve on committee and to set goals based on the *Strategic Economic Development Plan*, and that align with goals determined by the Department of Business Development. It was noted the committee previously identified a need to showcase opportunities available to students other than college, as in the event held last May at North Hagerstown High School. Janet Stiles Fulton suggested contacting Mark Fulton of AC&T for his involvement on the committee.

Infrastructure Committee – Michael Reyka noted members reviewed water and wastewater policies and procedures, along with losses occurring between the source and the meter and how to protect our resources. While Washington County has good infrastructure and plans are in place to modernize older infrastructure, costs can be a barrier to upgrades. Julie Rohm explained the process by which triangular hook-up fees were determined from the site, to the vault, to the business. Phil Ridenour commented meters are in place at the airport for business development however some questions about serving 680 acres of developable area with limited meters are of concern.

Marketing and Communications Committee – Julie Rohm reported Economic Development Week was a great success this year and encourages feedback. She announced the committee will assist the Education and Workforce Development and the Infrastructure committees in their marketing efforts.

Old Business – There was no Old Business to report this month.

New Business – Sarah Sprecher noted an 11 member delegation traveled to Hong Kong and South Korea to court businesses primarily for the PenMar area. Potential interest came from someone wanting 5 acres for a hotel and convention center, while another wanted 300 acres for future development. Other interested parties included an integrated medicine facility for Eastern and Asian medicine, a Maryland-based university is willing to work with Korean universities. An editorial meeting will be held with the Herald-Mail in the next couple of weeks.

Closed Session – Ed Lough motioned to go into Closed Session to consider a matter concerning the proposal of a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; or any personnel matters in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland. The motion was seconded by Janet Stiles Fulton. Hearing no discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Open Session – On a motion made by Ed Lough to return to Open Session and seconded by Josh Martin, the motion was unanimously approved. Present during Closed Session were Gary Bockrath, Jill Frick, Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Kassie Lewis, Andrew Loble, Ed Lough, Bob Mandley, Joshua Martin, Tabitha Porterfield, Michael Reyka, Phil Ridenour, Julie Rohm, Andrew Sargent, Theresa Shank, Linda Spence, Sarah Sprecher, Janet Stiles Fulton, and Aaron Stoner.

Adjournment – Theresa Shank made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Michael Reyka. Hearing no discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Linda Spence, Business Support Specialist
Washington County Department of Business Development
and
Recording Clerk for the Washington County Economic
Development Commission Board