



County Administration Building
100 West Washington Street, 2nd Floor, Suite 2001
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Regular Commission Meeting ~ May 10, 2018

The regular meeting of the Washington County Economic Development Commission (EDC) was held at 100 West Washington Street, Suite 2001. The following members were present: Julie Rohm (Chair), Michael Reyka (Secretary), Hugh Breslin, Mike Fitzgerald, James Herbert, Andrew Loble, Ed Lough, Joshua Martin, Theresa Shank, and Donnie Stotelmyer. Ex-Officio members in attendance were Debora Gilbert, Greg Snook, and Jill Thompson. Excused absence was Randy Thompson. Not present were Terry Baker, John Barr, LeRoy Myers, Emily Keller, and Robert Bruchey.

County staff in attendance included Jill Baker, Danielle Crabb, Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Jim Hovis, Kassie Lewis, Lauren Pogue, Rob Slocum, Susan Small, and Linda Spence. Also in attendance were Commissioner Jeff Cline, Danelle Hayer and Kevin Brandt.

Call to Order – Julie Rohm called the meeting to order. Ms. Rohm welcomed Park Superintendent, Kevin Brandt to the meeting. *Noting the Vice Chair position has been vacated, Ed Lough made a motion to appoint Jim Herbert as the Vice Chair. Andrew Loble seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.*

Approval of the Agenda – Michael Reyka motioned to approve the May 10, 2018 agenda as presented. *The motion was seconded by Andrew Loble. The motion was unanimously carried.*

Approval of the Minutes – On a motion made by Ed Lough and seconded by Hugh Breslin, *the meeting minutes of April 12, 2018 were approved unanimously.*

Director's Report – The State of Maryland Department of Commerce plans to unveil its new micro loan program in July 2018, and Washington County has been chosen as the unveiling point for Western Maryland. On May 22, 2018, the DBD will host two roundtable discussions with representatives from MD Commerce who will discuss the ins and outs of the Maryland Industrial Development Authority (MIDFA) program. DBD staff is working with County PR staff to modify the *Manufacturing Proud* advertisement – commission member suggestions are encouraged. DBD and PR staff will continue to collaborate on marketing efforts and ensure targeted audiences are maximized.

National Park Service – Several years ago, a committee was formed to discuss ways to secure funding to enhance Williamsport's Canal Park. Efforts paid off – \$11.33M was secured for the restoration of the aqueduct along the Conococheague Creek, Lockhouse 44 and Lock 44. This area has become a tourist destination and once completed, it is anticipated that the number of tourists will increase by more than 100,000 visitors annually! Representatives continue to support the National Park Service's headquarters' relocation to Williamsport. In other news, First Energy is waiting for the price of metal to rise before they demolish the power plant which is located within the boundaries of Canal Park.

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 Donnie Stotelmyer.*

Open Session – *On a motion made by Julie Rohm to return to Open Session and seconded by Hugh Breslin, the motion was unanimously approved.* Present during Closed Session were Jill Baker, Hugh Breslin, Jeff Cline, Danielle Crabb, Mike Fitzgerald, Deb Gilbert, Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Danelle Hayer, Jim Herbert, Kassie Lewis, Andrew Loble, Ed Lough, Josh Martin, Lauren Pogue, Michael Reyka, Phil Ridenour, Julie Rohm, Theresa Shank, Rob Slocum, Susan Small, Greg Snook, Linda Spence, Donnie Stotemyer, and Jill Thompson.

Elected Officials' Comments – Commissioner Cline commented on the importance of cross marketing efforts, pursuing community partnerships, continuing business outreach visits, and generating leads.

Reports in Brief – Ed Lough noted he did not have an update for this month. On behalf of the Convention & Visitors Bureau, Julie Rohm noted the U.S. Cycling event is expected to bring thousands of visitors to Washington County; Bowman Development recently broke ground on a *Home2 Suites*, bringing the number of hotel rooms in the Halfway area to more than 1,000; and BJ's Brewhouse will open to the public on May 21, and a Verizon store is opening on May 14. Hugh Breslin, on behalf of the Greater Hagerstown Committee, reported *On Track* initiatives are moving forward. Donnie Stotemyer stated municipalities are gearing up for the Maryland Municipal League Conference in Ocean City, MD June 10-13, 2018.

Executive Committee – An At Large vacancy exists on the EDC as a result of Gary Bockrath's resignation. Members agreed to submit three candidates' names for Board of County Commissioner consideration, in rank order, Thomas Dahbura, Curtis Pendleton, and Holly Combs. Members interested in serving on the EDC Slate of Officers are encouraged to make their interest known prior to the next meeting. A new slate will become effective directly following the Call to Order. The MEDA Council of Past Presidents Meeting is scheduled for May 17. The focus will be on best practices within the economic development industry. DBD staff recently conducted tristate area comparisons regarding funding, land/building availability, and organization structure which will be shared with members as part of the agenda packet for the meeting.

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

Linda Spence and Carmen Harbaugh
Recording Clerk(s) for the Washington County Economic
Development Commission