



Washington County Economic Development Commission

July 13, 2017

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), Gary Bockrath (Vice Chair), Hugh Breslin, Mike Fitzgerald, Jim Herbert, Andrew Loble, Ed Lough, Joshua Martin, and Theresa Shank. Ex-Officio members in attendance included Emily Keller, Council Member for the City of Hagerstown, Jill Frick Thompson, Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Hagerstown and the Honorable Gregory Snook, President of the Hagerstown/Washington County Industrial Foundation. Excused absence was Michael Reyka and Commissioner John Barr.

Staff in attendance included Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Bob Mandley, Lauren Pogue, Phil Ridenour, Rob Slocum, Linda Spence, and Sarah Sprecher. Also in attendance were Commissioner Wayne Keefer, Robert Bower, Wonro Lee, Joe Lee, and Wook Lee.

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Julie Rohm. Guest presenters in attendance included Wonro Lee, Joe Lee and Wook Lee of JG Business Link, Inc. (JGBLI).

Approval of the Agenda – Theresa Shank motioned to approve the Consent Agenda for July 13, 2017 as presented. The motion was seconded by Jim Herbert. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes – Joshua Martin motioned to approve the meeting minutes for May 11, 2017. The motion was seconded by Jim Herbert and approved unanimously. Andrew Loble requested a statement referenced under New Business from the meeting minutes for June 8, 2017 be amended to “Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics hosts approximately 20-30 employers and invites City and County business representatives to meet with them to try to sway them to relocate to Washington County, MD.” Mr. Loble then motioned to approve the amended minutes, Hugh Breslin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Cascade Town Centre Update – Presented by Wonro, Joe, and Wook Lee of JG Business Link, Inc. (JGBLI).

- Development plans include a university system, with ties to the University of Maryland; programs under consideration include workforce development training, STEM, athletics, Asian medicines, hospitality, etc.; commercial/retail space; residential housing; Asian/American foods production and sales; and recreational facilities.
- History of Fort Ritchie will be preserved.
- Up to 3 million visitors per year is expected
- Total investment is estimated between \$1.5 to \$2B
- A trip to South Korea is planned for the Fall to meet with potential investors

Work Team Reports

- The Work Team Information form was reviewed and approved for use.
- Business Appreciation Week Work Team
 - Drafted by Theresa Shank
 - On a motion made by Gary Bockrath, seconded by Jim Herbert, and unanimously approved, the Business Appreciation Week Work Team was approved.
 - Member recruitment is underway.
 - The first meeting will be held July 19, at 11:30 a.m. in the DBD Conference Room.

- City Center Work Team
 - Per the City Tax Assessment office, the use of increased valuation of property cannot be utilized for an Incentive Program for developers.
- PAWR Grant Work Team
 - The application for Washington County, MD was unfavorable.
 - The University of Washington received a favorable review; the University of Maryland has the potential to partner with UW on its SMART City and Opioid Addiction portion of the grant application.
- A meeting to brainstorm Work Team ideas was scheduled for August 7.

Staff Reports

- Kassie Lewis
 - A letter was submitted to the State Highway Administration in support of the redesign plans for the I-70/I-65 interchange.
 - A *Business Before Hours* event is being held at the Hagerstown Regional Airport on July 19 at 7:30 a.m. This event will allow local businesses and economic development partners to network with airfield businesses.
- Bob Mandley
 - Hager Watch – in response to a negative article appearing in the Hagerstown Magazine, a suggestion to offset that negativity with more positive public relations was suggested.
- Leslie Hart
 - The new Agricultural App is now available.
 - Ag Expo & Fair begins on Saturday, July 15 and runs through Saturday, July 23.
- Linda Spence
 - Questions regarding the Cyber Security Research and the Economic Futures Forum were answered.
- Public Relations
 - A meeting will be held on August 3 between the Public Relations and Business Development departments to discuss marketing and advertising in the coming months.
 - Create a marketing plan to keep positive business news in the forefront.

Elected Officials' Comments

- Representatives from JGBLI recently met with the Historic District Commission regarding preservation of Fort Ritchie's history.

New Business

- Linda Spence and Leslie Hart will work together to identify potential agricultural-related candidates to fill an At Large vacancy position on the commission as a result of Janet Stiles Fulton's resignation.

Old Business

- The first quarterly meeting between the Board of County Commissioners and the EDC was scheduled for October 31, 2017. Debra Murray will present financial data as it relates to economic development during the meetings.

Closed Session Project Status Update – Gary Bockrath 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 Theresa Shank. Hearing no discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Open Session – On a motion made by Hugh Breslin to return to Open Session and seconded by Ed Lough, the motion was unanimously approved. Present during Closed Session were Gary Bockrath, Hugh Breslin, Mike Fitzgerald, Jill Frick Thompson, Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Wayne Keefer, Emily Keller, Andrew Lobley,

Ed Lough, Bob Mandley, Lauren Pogue, Phil Ridenour, Julie Rohm, Andrew Sargent, Theresa Shank, Rob Slocum, Greg Snook, Linda Spence, Sarah Sprecher, and Janet Stiles Fulton.

- *Highlighting Economic Development and Higher Education in Maryland* event is being held at Frostburg State University on August 8, 2017 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Keynote speakers include Secretary Michael Gill of Commerce, and Secretary Kelly Schulz of DLLR.

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

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