



Washington County Economic Development Commission

January 18, 2018

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), Michael Reyka (Secretary), Mike Fitzgerald, Jim Herbert, Andrew Lobley, Ed Lough, Joshua Martin, and Donnie Stotelmyer. Ex-Officio members in attendance included Terry Baker and John Barr, Commissioners of the Washington County Board of County Commissioners, Emily Keller, Council Member for the City of Hagerstown, Jill Thompson, Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Hagerstown, and Greg Snook, President of CHIEF. Excused absences included Jim Herbert and Theresa Shank. Not present were Hugh Breslin, LeRoy Myers, and Robert Bruchey.

Staff in attendance were Danielle Crabb, Leslie Hart, Jim Hovis, Kassie Lewis, Bob Mandley, Lauren Pogue, Phil Ridenour, Rob Slocum, and Linda Spence. Also in attendance were Danelle Hayer and Andrew Sargent.

Call to Order – Gary Bockrath called the meeting to order. Rob Slocum introduced Danielle Crabb, the newly appointed Director for the Washington County Department of Public Relations and Marketing. Jill Thompson introduced Danelle Hayer as the Business Development Specialist for the City of Hagerstown’s Community and Economic Development Department.

Approval of the Agenda – Gary Bockrath motioned to approve the January 18, 2018 agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ed Lough. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes – Michael Reyka motioned to approve the meeting minutes for October 12, 2017. The motion was seconded by Joshua Martin. The motion was unanimously approved. Gary Bockrath motioned to approve the meeting minutes for November 9, 2017 as presented, the motion was seconded by Mike Fitzgerald and approved unanimously.

Hagerstown Regional Airport Presentation – Phil Ridenour provided members with an overview of the Hagerstown Regional Airport. He commented on staffing, tower operations, passenger operations, and future development plans.

Work Team Reports

- City Center Work Team
 - Good direction determined and will restart committee meetings in February.
- Executive Committee
 - The committee unanimously agreed to submit the following three candidates’ names, in rank order, for consideration by the BOCC to fill an At Large vacancy on the EDC, Randy Thompson of Thompson Gas and Service, Dr. John Heiser of Mid-Atlantic Veterinarians, and David Taylor of Syd Machat Realty Services. Ed Lough motioned to approve the three candidates listed above for BOCC consideration. Gary Bockrath seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The BOCC will discuss the recommendation on January 30, 2018.
 - Kassie Lewis and Rob Slocum announced funds will be made available to EDC members for pre-approved travel and expenses related to economic development initiatives. Until the policy and procedures have been developed, all requests for reimbursement of expenses should be forwarded to Ms. Lewis.

- Washington County, MD Day in Annapolis is being held on January 31, 2018.

DBD Report

- The DBD is co-hosting a quarterly technology information series along with the Technical Innovation Center. The first event scheduled for January 23 at 7:30 a.m. will be held at HCC and focus on MicroSoft Cloud Computing presented by Stephen Deming.
- Leslie Hart announced DBD and members of the Western MD Food Council are hosting a Groundhog Day Event on February 2 at Big Cork Vineyards. The event will introduce what agricultural products are available during the winter months, promote local, healthy eating, and to aide as an additional revenue source for farmers.

Elected Officials' Comments

- Commissioner Baker announced that BOCC agreed to forward fund \$5M to the Maryland Theatre for the capital improvement project. There is a shortfall of \$2M by private investors in order to meet their project start date by February 1.
- Council Member Keller announced City Council Members recently approved suggested changes to the Code Compliance and Review Policy and noted more changes are forthcoming.

New Business

- Mr. Earl Stoner of the Washington County Health Department, along with other Health Department representatives confirmed attendance to the February 8 EDC meeting.
- The Washington County Robotics Competition, sponsored by Volvo, is being held on January 20 at South Hagerstown High School. Lauren Pogue noted she planned to attend and will provide video of the event for marketing purposes.

Old Business

- Joshua Martin provided a style guide for the State of Maryland Department of Commerce's "Open for Business" initiative.

Adjournment – *Joshua Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Donnie Stotelmyer. Hearing no discussion, the meeting was adjourned.*

Linda Spence,
Recording Clerk for the Washington County Economic
Development Commission