



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

Regular Commission Meeting ~ March 8, 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), Gary Bockrath (Vice Chair), Michael Reyka (Secretary), Hugh Breslin, Mike Fitzgerald, Andrew Lobley, Ed Lough, Joshua Martin, Theresa Shank, Donnie Stotelmyer, and Randy Thompson. Ex-Officio member in attendance were Terry Baker, Emily Keller, and Jill Thompson. Excused absences included Jim Herbert and Greg Snook. Not present were John Barr, LeRoy Myers, and Robert Bruchey.

County staff in attendance were Danielle Crabb, Rich Eichelberger, Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Jim Hovis, Kassie Lewis, Bob Mandley, Lauren Pogue, Phil Ridenour, Rob Slocum, and Linda Spence. Also in attendance were Danelle Hayer, Andrew Sargent, and Christy Crowl.

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Julie Rohm. Randy Thompson was welcomed as the newest member of the Economic Development Commission. Kassie Lewis introduced Susan Small as the DBD's Business Leader.

Approval of the Agenda – Gary Bockrath motioned to approve the March 8, 2018 agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ed Lough. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approval of the Minutes – On a motion made by Gary Bockrath and seconded by Ed Lough, the meeting minutes of February 8, 2018 were approved unanimously.

Washington County Government – Rob Slocum, Administrator for Washington County provided an overview of County Government. Beginning with a theme of *Listen, Think, Take Action, Respond, Follow-Up, Repeat*, his presentation included Who are our customers; Where we begin; Quality of Life; Service Lines; County at Work; Customers; Safety (Washington County Government boasts 285 safe days out of the last 365 days); Software updates; Collaboration; Clean county; Economy (real estate, income, personal property, and recordation taxes); Economic Development Commission; Projects/events (Jamison Door Company and TechFast at HCC); Infrastructure projects; Know your competition; Partnerships; Media Outlets; and *Live, Work, Play – Make. Spend. Stay*. Mr. Slocum encouraged members to develop a Work Team and explore all partnerships and to create a SWOT analysis for those partnerships.

Executive Committee – Julie Rohm announced EDC members who represent organizations such as the Greater Hagerstown Committee (Hugh Breslin), Maryland Municipal League (Donnie Stotelmyer), Washington County Chamber of Commerce (Ed Lough), and the Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau (Julie Rohm) will be allotted 2-3 minutes in future meetings each month to provide an update on their respective affiliations. Gary Bockrath made a motion to seek an evaluation of the current EDC structure and model by the Maryland Economic Developers Association (MEDA) by its Past Presidents and to present its recommendations to improve its effectiveness and possible restructure. Ed Lough seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was carried. Preliminary research on Health Advisory Boards in other communities was presented by Michael Reyka. Prior to moving forward with re-instituting a Health Advisory Board for Washington County, MD, members will review the structure of the advisory board prior to moving forward. Gary Bockrath made a motion to request the BOCC create a new ex officio position on the EDC for the

Executive Director of the Western Maryland Consortium, currently held by Debora Gilbert. Theresa Shank seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. Christy Crowl, a former Boonsboro resident, was welcomed to the EDC meeting. Ms. Crowl noted she recently returned from living in California for the past 21 years and was interested in learning what is happening in the community at this time.

DBD Report

- Kassie Lewis discussed the possibility of creating a Work Team to research economic development content as the department prepares to build its new website.
- Networking and Business Expenses – Each member received a copy of the County’s Business Expense Policy and the DBD’s Networking Policy.
- DLLR’s Apprenticeship Program was discussed.

Elected Officials’ Comments

- Commissioner Baker commented on the past and current EDC structure; and praised Rob Slocum for his expertise and knowledge in moving the County forward.

Closed Session – 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 Ed Lough.

Open Session – On a motion made by Hugh Breslin to return to Open Session and seconded by Josh Martin, the motion was unanimously approved. Present during Closed Session were Gary Bockrath, Hugh Breslin, Danielle Crabb, Mike Fitzgerald, Carmen Harbaugh, Leslie Hart, Danelle Hayer, James Hovis, Kassie Lewis, Andrew Loble, Ed Lough, Bob Mandley, Josh Martin, Lauren Pogue, Julie Rohm, Andrew Sargent, Theresa Shank, Rob Slocum, Susan Small, Linda Spence, Donnie Stotelmyer, and Jill Thompson.

New Business

- Leslie Hart reported Career Exploration Day is being held on June 6. This event will target 7th Grade students and provide them with an opportunity to learn about career opportunities available through a hands-on approach. The DBD has been asked to recommend and retain agricultural-related career representatives at the event.

Old Business

- The DBD is partnering with the Maryland Department of General Services Administration to present opportunities for government contracting to all Washington County, MD businesses on April 11 at HCC.
- Boyd Michael of the WCPS is confirmed to be the guest presenter during the April 12 EDC meeting.

Adjournment – Mike Fitzgerald made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Josh Martin. Hearing no discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

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