ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
3/5/14

PRESENT:
Michael Ratchford (Chairman), Dr. Stephen Pannell (Cecil College President), Dr. Robert Gell (Charlestown Administrator), Dr. D’Ette Devine (CCPS), Norman Gaither (NorArk Executive Group), Rupert Rossetti (Citizen), Doreen Smith (Town of Perryville), JoAnn Dawson (Fairwinds Farm), Denise Davis (CCPL), Paula Gilley (Mason Dixon Realty), Woody Jackson (Jackson Marine Sales), Robert Palsgrove (Columbia Bank), Mayor Robert Fischer (Town of Rising Sun), Bruce England (SWN), Mike Travers (Cecil Dance Center), Bill Kilby (Kilby Cream), Danny DeMarinis (University Research Park), Dr. Ken Lewis (Union Hospital).


ABSENT:
Robert Hodge (Council President), Mayor Dean Geracimos (Town of Chesapeake City), Andrew Jodlbauer (Jodlbauer’s Furniture), Robin McCann (Economic Development), Joanne Richart-Young (Economic Development), Grove Miller (Agriculture), Linda Burris (Delmarva Power), Mike Lara (ATK), Mayor Robert McKnight (Town of North East), Jeanne Miner (Town of Elkton), Mayor Wayne Tome (Town of Port Deposit), Mayor Joseph Zang (Town of Cecilton), Chick Hamm (PNC Bank).

GUESTS:
Stephanie Palko (Guardian), Kathy Kunda (Elkton Alliance), Vince Fiorelli (Chesapeake Utilities), Alan Sexton (SWN), Jonathan Quinn (Farm Bureau), Jack Schammel (Leading Logic), Laura Basin (Artesian Water), Dan Schneckenburger (Barton & Associates), Alan Sexton (SWN) Steve Connelly (Maryland Department of Ag), Brian Carbaugh (Artesian Water), Cheryl Mattix (Cecil Whig), Tammy Edwards (DBED), Wayne Stafford (Farm Bureau).

Call to Order & Welcome
Mike Ratchford called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. The Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2014 were approved as e-mailed.

Chairman’s Report
Mike Ratchford presented the following:

1. Maryland Transit Authority began Marc weekend services with Penn Line. They are working with the town of Elkton and Cecil County to restore Elkton Station.
2. Congratulated Rupert Rossetti for being honored by the Chesapeake Bay Trust for the 2014 Ellen Fraites Wagner Award.
3. Union Hospital President Dr. Ken Lewis provided an update to clarify health care changes regarding merging hospitals. He stated that Union Hospital was clinically and financially strong; however, they have agreed to develop relationships with Nemours Pediatric Hospital for Children of Wilmington, Delaware and Johns Hopkins University Hospital of Baltimore, Maryland. Union Hospital will also collaborate with the following programs: cancer program, academic program participation, expense control, and physician networking. He clearly stated that this collaboration is not a merger and Union Hospital is still an independent hospital.
4. Chairman Mike Ratchford stated that Delegate David Rudolph and Delegate Mary Delany James would be presenting HB1060; Additive Manufacturing. Mike Ratchford read the letter of support to the EDC Committee. On motion made by Norman Gaither, seconded by JoAnn Dawson, the EDC Committee moved to approve the HB1060 letter of support. Motion carried unanimously.

Agriculture Presentation
Steve Connelly provided an update on Cecil County Agriculture.
1. Crops in Cecil County are corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, and hay.
2. Livestock in Cecil County are cattle, equine, swine, poultry, and other livestock.
3. 2014 Farm Bill and the issues affecting Cecil County Farmers.
4. TMDL Goals
5. Overall Ag strength for Cecil County is in the middle range.

Director’s Report
Director Lisa Webb reported on the following:
1. County budget released.
2. Tracking & Monitoring several legislative bills.
3. SPAN wrap up.
4. ICSC Conference.
5. NEMD URP new office space at Cecil College.
6. Developing new marketing initiative with EAGB.
7. NMTC Visionary Awards (congratulations to Bill Prins of ATK for the Mentoring Award).
8. USRC Director’s meeting, regional marketing opportunities.
9. Prospect, Developer meetings continued.

Business Development Report
Economic Development Manager Susan O’Neill reported on the following:
1. Attend IEDC Course on Real Estate Development.
2. Participated in on boarding of the new Economic Development Coordinator.
3. Attended Elkton Alliance meeting.
4. Continue working with prospect (a cyber security start-up business).
5. Networked at several Chamber events.
6. Prepared and submitted 2013 New and Expanding list to DBED.
7. Continue working with prospect on funding.
8. Visited four businesses.
9. Provided real estate data in response to several phone requests.

Agriculture Report
Joanne Richart-Young reported on the following;
1. Submitted response to the Maryland Horse Industry Board’s request for interest in the proposed 2014 Maryland Horse Park System.
2. Annie’s Classes continue and should be completed by March 26th.
3. Attended the North East Farmers Market meeting. The season is scheduled to begin Friday, May 9th – Friday, October 31st – 2:00 to 6:00 pm every Friday.
4. Continue to assist the Upper Shore Regional Council on the Cecil County Media Workshop.
5. Continue to keep informed on the Economic Development and Agriculture Legislative issues.

Tourism Update
Sandy Turner reported on the following:
1. Tourism Industry Survey distributed to 308 Cecil Organizations; (special thanks to Rupert Rossetti for taking the lead).
2. Presentation to the North East Chamber (tourism marketing and partner opportunities).
3. Clyde Van Dyke update on Calvert Regional Park.
4. Developing farm tour for groups to promote at the PBA and MMA trade shows.
5. Exploring enhancement to our SeeCecil.org website.
6. Named to the legislated and newly created “Maryland Sportsman’s Marketing Initiative Steering Committee”.

Coordinator Update
1. Met with Cecil County staff and partners to become familiar with processes essential to his new position.
3. Updated social media outlets to reflect upcoming events.
4. Toured various business parks and important sites in Cecil County.
5. Attended the County Executive’s FY15 Budget Proposal Press Conference.
6. Met with Parks and Recreation Director Clyde Van Dyke regarding Calvert Park.

Subcommittee Reports
Education/Workforce – Denise Davis provided an update on the major focus of the Strategic Plan; recognition of Stem and creating advocacy for education in Cecil County, workforce development and early childhood education.

Technology – Norman Gaither reported on the merging technology of 3D printing.

Land Use – Rupert Rosseti reported on the Lidar Mapping project, GIS Layers, and the redevelopment of the Town of Elkton.

Finance – Chick Hamm was absent.

Communications – JoAnn Dawson reported on the following; Tourism Survey and Bus Tours, Horse Park Initiative, FY15 Budget, Day Basket Factory, North East resident chosen in the Nationals to attend the Academy Awards, Cecil County Library was chosen as a finalist for a National Award, and she encouraged everyone to attend Milburn Stone Theatre.

Adjournment
Mike Ratchford adjourned the meeting at 9:00 am. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 8:00 am, Union Hospital, Chesapeake/Susquehanna Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McCann
Administrative Assistant