

**BOONSBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 25, 2018**

The Boonsboro Economic Development Commission met on April 25, 2018 at the Kauffman Annex. In attendance: Chairman George Messner, Secretary Vickie Messner, Commission members Carol Blessing, Kristin Bowl, Terri Packard, Robin Spires, Bruce Wilder, Council liaison Cindy Kauffman, Mayor Howard Long, and Interim Town Manager Bruce Zimmerman. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM.

Comments Chairman Messner officially welcomed new Commission member Robin Spires. Mayor Long thanked the EDC and local businesses for continued service to the community. A recent study conducted by LendEDU ranked Boonsboro 176th out of 500 towns/cities as one of the best places to start a new business. Parameters considered important for starting a new business were cost of general expenses, disposable income available to residents, and population during standard business hours. EDC members have been invited to participate in the Opening Ceremony for the 10th Annual Green Fest on May 19, 2018 at 9:45 AM at the Shafer Park Bandstand.

The minutes from the February 28, 2018 were approved as written. Motion to accept: B. Wilder, Second: C. Blessing. Motion carried.

The next **networking breakfast** is scheduled for May 18, 2018 @7:30 AM at Vesta. Notification of the meeting will be sent by May 9th, RSVP date May 15th. Beth Pulsifer-Anderson (Atlantic Home Equity) will be the guest speaker. Future speakers: July- Levi Sellers (South Mountain MicroFarm), September- Bernadette Wagner (Hospice), November- Wendy Moore (WCPS Apprenticeship Maryland).

Old Business

Ideas to encourage residents to shop local- Kristin Bowl presented a survey to be used to gauge resident shopping at local businesses. The survey would be conducted on-line (perhaps as an extension of the Business Directory). As an incentive, anyone participating would be eligible for a drawing to receive a prize. Coupons and discounts would also be available.

Advertising- The new rack cards feature the July cycling event on the front and an extensive list of activities on the back.

Events Committee- May 22- Field trip for Boonsboro fourth-graders to the Trolley Station and Bowman House complex, September 22- 5K race, December 16- Open House at historic churches. Keedysville and Sharpsburg have been invited to participate in this year's tour. Other coming events: May 17- Maryland Department of Tourism will be in town to do a video shoot on the National Road for the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, September 15- Grandparent/grandchild photo contest at Hospice.

Cycling Championship- July 26- Area businesses contributing to the sponsorship with the EDC are Talon Studios, South Mountain Dental, Boonsboro Lions Foundation, Fahrney-Keedy, and Robin's Nest. Two more businesses are needed to meet our goal. It was suggested investigating the possibility of providing bus service from the staging area into town for the participants and their families. It would be necessary to research types of vehicles, availability, and cost. July 25- Bike helmet give away at the Hagerstown Suns game.

Welcome packet- A subcommittee will be creating a rack card/brochure for new residence, providing pertinent information and contacts. These would be available to realtors, insurance agents, developer offices, and at Town Hall.

Planters- Diana Heaney has agreed to do the four planters on the square. The Horticulture class at Boonsboro High will be contacted to determine interest to do the urns in front of the Annex.

New Business

Budget- It was noted \$5,000 will be deducted from Revitalization toward payment of emergency roof repair at the National Road Museum.

New Business Activity- Pet Valu (Weis complex), Beauty Bar (Auction Square complex), new AC&T car wash estimated rebuild 3 months.

It was recommended a list of available lots/buildings in and around Boonsboro be compiled by the Town Planner. This list could be listed on our town website and also sent to the Washington County EDC website. It was suggested inviting WCDBD Director Kassie Lewis to one of our meetings.

Parking- The Public Safety Committee has asked the EDC to assist with finding off street parking sites. Carol Blessing has volunteered to attend the June 21st public safety meeting in order to gather more information.

Apprenticeship Maryland program- Cindy Kauffman and Vickie Messner attended an Open House on April 14 at WCPS Headquarters. This program aids in creating a connection of skilled and qualified labor by combining on-the-job training and related classroom instruction to eligible high school students. The program requires employers in occupations related to manufacturing industry or STEM to provide paid compensation for an “earn and learn” opportunity.

Next meeting: June 27, 2018

Motion to adjourn: K. Bowl, Second: B. Wilder. Motion carried. Adjournment: 10:35 AM

Submitted:

Vickie Messner,
Secretary

Consult new rack card for upcoming May-June events

Note- Girls Night Out on May 17 will be 5-9 PM