

Economic Development Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
April 26 2023

Meeting was called to order at 8:05 am

Present: Chairwoman Terri Packard, Marie Oyster, Natoma Vargason, Ron Humbel, Tyler Hornbecker, Dana Healy, Tiffany Ahalt, Bryan Wachtal, Ray Hanson, and Paul Mantello

Secretary's Report: Minutes from February 22, 2023 were reviewed. Motion to accept as written by Ron Humbel, second by Natoma Vargason, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Ron Humbel; Motion to approve by Tiffany Ahalt, second by Natoma Vargason, motion carried.

Terri lead further discussion on the budget for FY 2024. The following items were suggested as part of the Budget discussion

Tyler Hornbecker recommended we ask a business to sponsor the Networking Breakfast.

Terri suggested a newsletter be mailed in the water bills

EDC should have Annual Mixer and ask for a sponsor for the alcohol

Natoma shared that we are highlighted in the "Explore" South Mountain Recreations Area magazine

Tiffany – Branding process – we need someone to walk us through this – need a tag line and LOGO

Item 5 – Tourism Development/Promotion – Tiffany suggested regular hours for a Welcome Center – wants to open new year. Discuss with the New Boonsboro Town Manager. The National Road Museum for a Welcome Center ?

Budget a Salary for a Part Time Position

Item 6 – Main Street Maryland program – The goal is to become an Affiliate MSM Program – need to submit 12 pictures that represent volunteerism, filing a grant for a P/T person. Main Street USA Conference is held once a year – maybe budget \$2000 for this. It was also suggested that we go on a field trip to Frostburg.

There was a Motion by Natoma Vargason to pass budget with the language adjusted to Branding Package, second by Dana Healy, motion carried.

Misc Comments:

FFA planting the planters this weekend.

Tyler talked about trying to get a Non-Profit to run parking @ Boonefest. The Ambulance nor Fire Company are interested.

New Town Manager opening – there are dozens of applicants, 4 to interview

Boonsboro Police Officers – where do we need speed brackets ?

Old Business:

- a. Grant Opportunities: There is a Master Spreadsheet of Grants Approved/Available with deadlines and specifics. Bathroom project – waiting for new Town Manager to move forward, line needs updated, drawings that need to be tweaked, RFP's. FAÇADE GRANT is available May 1<sup>st</sup>, so let's get the word out. ACWA (Antietam Conococheague Watershed Alliance is approved for \$20,000

- b. **Downtown Beautification Project: Landscape Project**, EDC reviewed the draft, need to ask Mike VanFleet for pricing of traffic circle and other areas too. We need to schedule a meeting with FSA to review the landscape plan and make suggestions and changes. The price for the Mural is \$10K. A few items noted were the Tree Wells should change to hanging baskets, need a sign for both sides of circle, and electric outlets in circle and park entrance
- c. **Networking Breakfast Series: May 9<sup>th</sup>** is an evening event to the Boonsboro Museum of History from 6 to 8 pm, cost is ?? A suggestion for a future Networking event at Crystal Grottoes, maybe the July 20<sup>th</sup> event – Natoma will contact them. September 21<sup>st</sup> Breakfast, Tiffany will try to get a Main Street person from Frostburg to present.
- d. **Business Ribbon Cuttings & Recognition: April 29<sup>th</sup>** at 11 am Talon Studio, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4 pm Farmers Market. We will hold Proclamations for Anniversaries and Openings for local businesses.
- e. **Spring Jubilee: Wagon Ride** is 11 am to 3 pm (weather permitting) and will drop off and pick up at Fulton Bank. There was discussion about purchasing Tents for use at our events. Motion received from Natoma to purchase tents up to a cost of \$1000 for use at our events, second by Dana Healy, motion carried.
- f. **Food Truck Festival:** We need one more band – two possibilities are “Staff Infection” or “Plate Scrapers”. We have 21 Vendors and would like to have 2-3 more. We are still working on a Fire Marshall issue.
- g. **Boonsboro Town Alliance:** The Officers will be President, Ron Humbel, Vice President, Dana Healy, Treasurer, Marie Oyster and 9 Members, Nate Kraft, Secretary, Bria Porter, Curt Conway, Pastor Carl (Trinity Lutheran), Raya Yeary, and Natoma Vargason (Liaison). Ron is checking into a “Conflict of Interest Policy”
- h. **Appalachian Trail Community Task Force:** June 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Dedication Ceremony at 1 pm for Boonsboro. Howard Long will present a Proclamation. The Governor will be invited, County Commissioners, Dave Lillard who started the Snack Trails. There will be Live Music with Elijah, Miles Kelly and Jeremy Miller. Edward Jones (Tyler Hornbecker) will sponsor a shuttle will run every ½ hour.
- i. **Girls Night Out:** May 11<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm to 8 pm – there will be a traveling author, Brenda Novak. Brenda will be in an Airstream with a coffee bar and selling books. Benders Food Truck – need permission from town to park on Main Street, and possibly Dino or Tony for Music. Ray Hanson will present to the Town Council.
- j. **Quarterly Rack Cards** – Marie will be sending out an email soon for next round.
- k. **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary JFK 50 Ultramarathon**
- l. **EDC Marketing Committee**

**New Business:**

- **Annual Commission Mixer** – we need a venue. Could it be Vanish Brewery, American Legion or ? Terri will talk to Vanish owner.
- **Natoma shared that the Western Maryland Consortium will have a Summer Youth Program**
- **New Business to open in Boonsboro – Provisions 146 – Gourmet Foods and 146 Engrave – no open date at this time**

**Adjournment:** Motion by Ron Humbel to adjourn, second by Marie Oyster, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:41 am

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Oyster, Secretary