

Economic Development Commission
August 28, 2024 Minutes
Boonsboro Town Hall Annex

Meeting was called to Order at 8:07 am by Terri Packard

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Terri Packard, Dana Healy, Tyler Hornbecker, Nate Kraft, Natoma Vargason, Marie Oyster, Ron Humbel and Town Council Liaison, Ray Hanson. Others in attendance: Mayor Howard Long

Secretary Report was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Marie Oyster and seconded by Ron Humbel. Motioned carried.

Treasurer's Report

Terri reviewed Income and Expense Reports. Dana Healy moved to approve the report and Natoma Vargason seconded. Motion Carried.

Council Liaison Report

- Big Change to Police Dept – adding a new Officer, Sergeant James Rogers, and we have one person in the academy.
- Vanish Brewery – their capacity changed, so they are waiting to get hooked up to sewer – this is approved and hopes to get started in September.
- Water Reservoir trying to get started on this project.

Public Comments

- Town Manager, Rachel, met with the owners of the Fulton Bank Building. They are looking to sell the lot next to the bank, possibly for parking as the lot is long and narrow. There are also 3 vacant office spaces on the 2nd floor of the building that are available for rent. They need to get this space rented. Rachel thought there might be a need for the BTA
- Mayor Howard Long shared about Tentative plans for the 250th Year Anniversary Celebration of Washington County to be held on July 4th, 2026, at the Ag Center. Boonsboro will host their own town event on July 3rd, 2026. There will be a set of coins available that include a coin for each town in Washington County. They will give us 1500 coins, and we can purchase additional sets if you choose. They do meet once a month to discuss plans.

Old Business

Grant Updates

- Rural MD – no bathroom updates
- Cultural Trail – no real update
- EDC Website – Kickoff meeting for website was held with Revize, we had good dialogue and brainstorming with the Designer. They are working on design, and we will get a mock-up soon and will share this.
- Façade Grant – no updates (need Bryan) - \$50,000 approved grant
- Downtown Beautification – We are working with FSA on a Master Plan for the traffic circle. The plan cost is estimated at \$4800 (in the budget) and is required by State Hwy.

Networking Event Series

The September 19th Networking event was tentatively planned for Vineyards at Maple View Manor, Terri has emailed them but no response yet. We may change to a morning networking event on Wednesday, 09/18/2024. We are tabling the November 14th Commission Mixer at this time.

Business Ribbon Cuttings

Solaro Roots & Soul Alchemy (located above S & R Studio) – October 24th at 11 am
Disc Golf – This is fully funded; Kick-Off and Ribbon cutting will be at a future date (done by end of October). Visit the Disc Golf page for further details.

Quarterly Rack Cards

Marie is emailing out the request for information for 4th Quarter 2024 in the next day or two. The deadline to the printer is 09/23. We need to create a Shared List of Distribution (Google Keep).

Main Street Maryland – no updates

Comprehensive Plan – no updates

Commission Vacancy

Committee Reports

Food Truck Festival – September 1

- 20 Food trucks, nice variety
- Strong Kid Zone – Dianna will oversee
- Beer Garden – sponsored by Tyler Hornbecker
- Radio Advertising – 106.9
- Natoma will create a QR Code
- Tractor Pull – Park Board would not allow as they have plans to start another section of the walking trail which will pass through this area.
- Recommendation to have a member of Park Board on EDC Commission and vice versa. Tyler Hornbecker is willing to serve on the Park Board. Jamie Burton will be the Park Board's representative to the EDC.
- We need photographers – use Hashtag #BoonsboroFTF24
- Trash Pick-up will be done by a Local Trash company, they will manage their trashcans, M & T will help with trash also.
- Chief Riser and Officer Wittington will be on site during event.
- Parking is good per Tyler.
- Information Table will be handled by Dana & Marie – we will have t-shirts, water and snacks for sale and the EDC's Square available.

Boonsboro Town Alliance

Owes \$300 Personal Property Tax fee to State of Maryland – this will put us in Good Standing. We will also need to file an amendment to change our status for a fee of \$150.

Appalachian Trails Community Advisory Board

This has been stalled.

Welcome Center at National Road Museum

They are thinking about volunteers for center, 10 am to 6 pm on Saturdays, 11 am to 4 pm on Sundays and for special events. The plan is to open in October. There will always be 2 people in NRM. Terri will send us the volunteer sign up link.

Marketing – Done**New Business**

Motorcoach Convention in Hagerstown September 24th – Tiffany is our contact for this event. There will be a trade show, and we will have a table. There will be Tour Bus arriving at 330 pm into Boonsboro. We need to create a welcome, and there will be a Zoom meeting with Tiffany on Tuesday.

New Business Activity – Dunkin Donuts is still waiting on the road; High's is waiting on permits.

Natoma moved to adjourn at 9:40 am and Dianna seconded. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Oyster
Secretary