

Economic Development Commission

November 19, 2014, 6:00 p.m., Chesapeake Building

Minutes Approved – December 17, 2014

Attendees: Carlos Bravo, Wynne Briscoe, Daniel Carney, Laura Clarke, Phil Dorsey, Phil Langley, James Raley, Tom Sanders, Bill Scarafia, Michael Schroeder, Tom Watts

Absentees: Richard Braam, Tracy Harris

Staff and Guests: Robin Finnacom, Acting Director; Dana DiGregorio, Sr. Administrative Coordinator; Ron Sweeney, Business Development Specialist, DED; Donna Sasscer, Manger, Agriculture and Seafood Division, DED; Phil Favero, Ph.D., Senior Faculty Research Associate University of Maryland Institute for Governmental Service and Research; Robin Parker Cox, Director, University of Maryland Institute for Governmental Service and Research

Issues:

1. Tom Watts, Vice Chairman, noted that the search to fill the vacancy of the Director of Economic Development has been extended through December 3, 2014.
2. Minutes of the October 15th meeting were reviewed. Daniel Carney made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Laura Clarke and passed unanimously.

Discussion Topics:

1. The Department has launched a “Shop Local, Shop Often” campaign.
2. The Department issued a Tourism & Hospitality Master Plan request for expressions of interest which received a great response.
3. Results were reviewed from the Business Incentives Survey conducted with the defense contractors listed in the Technology Handbook.
4. The Department will seek the Commissioners’ approval for a new contract for technology business development with TEDCO.
5. Bill Scarfia asked if it was possible for document and a DVD copy of the meeting to be given to the board members not in attendance at meetings so the member can be informed in a timely manner and be able to respond to actions needed in a timely manner. Economic Development staff will provide paperwork and a DVD to members as soon as possible.

Presentations:

1. Marie Howland, Ph.D., Professor, Urban Studies and Planning Program, University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation presented the Agriculture Industry Sector Overview data collected. Dr. Howland and Ms. Donna Sasscer, Manger, DED Agriculture and Seafood Division, answered questions from the commission members.

Actions:

1. The minutes of the October 15, 2014 meeting were approved.

Tom Watts, Vice Chairman, made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jaime Railey and approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by Dana DiGregorio, Sr. Administrative Coordinator, DED

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