ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Chris Kaselemis, Director

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
James R. Guy, President
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Tom Jarboe, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

St. Mary's County Economic Development Commission
February 21, 2018, 6:00 p.m., Chesapeake Building

Approved May 16, 2018

Attendees: John Austerman, Carlos Bravo, Wynne Briscoe, Lisa Creason, Laura Clarke, Tracy Harris, Phil Langley, Tom Sanders, Michael Schroder, Elizabeth Torgerson,

Staff: Chris Kaselemis, Bennett Wilson, Adam Mawyer, Katherine Stormont

Absent: Phil Dorsey, Rich Fleming, William "BJ" Hall, Tom Watts

Call to Order: Dr. Tracy Harris called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes:
No minutes were discussed or approved during this meeting

Announcements & Discussion:
1. Welcome to the three (3) new members of the EDC John Austerman, Lisa Creason, and William "BJ" Hall.
2. Chris Kaselemis introduced the current officers of the EDC for the new members: Wynne Briscoe, Chair; Elizabeth Torgerson, Vice Chair; Dr. Tracy Harris, Corresponding Secretary.
3. Chris Kaselemis discussed the change going on with the Tourism division related to the results of the Tourism Hospitality Master Plan. He noted that Jones, Lang, LaSalle (JLL, Inc.) made several recommendations to help raise the level of Tourism in St. Mary's County those recommendations included a need for a more focused and strategic approach to promoting tourism, more focus on product development and linking activities and attractions in the different areas of the county, and overnight hotel stays are a key component in tourism. He also noted that JLL recommended that we make an organizational change by making Tourism a Non-Profit entity (501C6 Organization) that is on contract to the County which we are in the process of implementing this new non-profit entity established. He discussed what the connection between the County and the Tourism non-profit. Chris advised the board that there will be a Tourism Update Meeting for the public on March 7th, 2018, which will include speakers from JLL, SMC Economic Development and the Transitional Tourism board. Chris answered questions and addressed comments from the commission members.
4. Chris Kaselemis noted that the Welcome Center which was located in Charlotte Hall has been closed and relocated to the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum Visitors Center.
5. Chris Kaselemis introduced the New Deputy Director Bennett Wilson. Bennett spoke to the commission about her background.
6. Chris Kaselemis presented to the commission a power point presentation about the Airport Business Development Plan.

a. Chris spoke about the St. Mary's County Airport and how it fits into the plan. And the future and what is to come at the airport. Ken Reed joined the presentation and answered questions posed by the commission members regarding the airport and what is coming.
b. Chris spoke about the Expansion of the Higher Education Center and how it relates to the expansion of the airport.
c. Bennett Wilson discussed the purpose of a Research Park Model and how it would benefit the growth of the area adding mixed usage of the building and area for all different types of businesses that benefit each other all in the same area.
d. Chris discussed what our vision of the larger area beyond the airport including Wildewood neighborhood, Wildewood Shopping Center, the Industrial Park on Airport View Road, and commercial office buildings in Wildewood. Ken Reed & Chris Kaselemis answered questions and addressed comments posed by the commission regarding the expansion of the airport and the surrounding area.

Next Meeting:
The Next Economic Development Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2018, in the Chesapeake Building meeting room.

Adjournment:
1. Laura Clarke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Phil Langleyand approved unanimously.

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