



# CALVERT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

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## *Board of Commissioners*

Earl F. Hance  
Mike Hart  
Thomas E. Hutchins  
Kelly D. McConkey  
Steven R. Weems

## **MINUTES**

**June 10, 2020**

### **Virtual Meeting**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bonnie Barrett, Susan Cox, Tony DeStefano, Eric Eitel, Stacey Hann-Ruff, Larry Jaworski, Mina Kim, Tommy Luginbill, Gwyn Novak, Carrie Polk, Scott Russey, Kasia Sweeney, Kristin Williams

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mike Benton\*, Kim Owen

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Wynne Briscoe – Small Business Development Center, Angella Hunter – Soil Conservation, Kathy Maney – Chamber of Commerce, Alessia O’Dell – Career & Technology Academy, Angela Walters Small – College of Southern Maryland

**STAFF PRESENT:** Danita Boonchaisri, Tammy Bowen, Hilary Dailey, Kathy MacAdams, Judy Mackall, Jenny Plummer-Welker, Kelly Robertson-Slagle

### **\*Excused Absence**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Scott Russey.

#### **II. CALL FOR AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

With a call for agenda revisions being made by Russey, and none being received, a **motion** was made by Larry Jaworski to approve the agenda as submitted. The **motion** was seconded by Carrie Polk, and carried.

#### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DEC. 11, 2019 MEETING and FEB. 18, 2020 ANNAPOLIS VISIT**

On a **motion** by Polk, seconded by Jaworski and carried, the minutes from the Dec. 11, 2019 meeting were approved as submitted. On a **motion** by Jaworski, seconded by Polk, the minutes from the Feb. 18 Annapolis visit were approved as submitted.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Zoning Ordinance Update**

Judy Mackall, P&Z Deputy Director, reported that the initial review of the Zoning Ordinance has been completed. A full-time planner/project manager will be hired in the near future to manage the Zoning Ordinance project.

## **B. Comprehensive Plan/Master Plan Update**

Jenny Plummer-Welker, Long-Range Planner, reported that the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Comprehensive Plan in August 2019. Work is now focused on updating the seven Town Center Master Plans. The Prince Frederick Master Plan update was started in January and public meetings were held in January and March. Public online engagement tools are being explored for future workshops.

## **C. Census Update**

Plummer-Welker provided an overview on the status of the 2020 census. Outreach has been challenging due to COVID-19. The goal is to achieve a 90 percent response rate for Calvert County. The response rate was 69.2 percent as of June 7.

## **D. Navigating Our Recovery – Getting Back to Business**

### **1. Economic Indicators**

Danita Boonchaisri gave a presentation on the impact COVID-19 has had on the economy, including unemployment rates and the status of commercial real estate.

### **2. Virtual Town Halls**

Kathy MacAdams reported that two Virtual Town Halls have been held in partnership with the Calvert Library and featuring Dr. Polsky from the Health Department. More Virtual Town Halls are planned for the future and will include virtual visits to store locations.

### **3. “Back to Business” Week Activities**

MacAdams shared that Business Appreciation Week (BAW) was canceled due to COVID-19. “Back to Business” is a virtual version of BAW. Events throughout the week include a Virtual Town Hall educational webinar with Dr. Polsky and Kelly Robertson-Slagle, and a virtual business visit event that will be attended by Economic Development staff, ambassadors and 12 county businesses.

### **4. Tourism and Nonprofit Challenges**

Hilary Dailey provided an update on the major effect COVID-19 has had on tourism. It is projected that it will be 2023 before tourism and travel returns to 2019 levels. She also reported that the biggest struggle for nonprofits is lack of funds and she detailed how they, as well as other county attractions, are pivoting to adjust to the changes brought on by the pandemic.

### **5. CARES Act Funding**

Robertson-Slagle reported on CARES Act funding that was allocated to Calvert County. She gave a breakdown of how the funds were disbursed among different sectors of the county. Economic Development and Community Resources were each allocated funding for small business and nonprofit grants, respectively. She then detailed how Calvert County’s small businesses and nonprofits could apply for this grant funding which will be implemented and overseen by Economic Development and Community Resources.

**E. Convening of Nominating Committee**

Boonchaisri announced that the Nominating Committee will need to convene in the near future to discuss nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair. Anyone interested in serving in this capacity should inform Economic Development staff. The committee's recommendations will be brought forth for vote at the next meeting.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public attended and no comment was taken.

**VI. NEXT MEETING**

The next EDAC meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2020 at 9 a.m. Location TBD but this meeting will likely be virtual.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business, a **motion** to adjourn was made Polk at 10:12 a.m. The **motion** was seconded by Jaworski, and carried.