



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

December 9, 2020

Virtual Meeting & "The Season of Giving" Virtual Walk

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonnie Barrett, Susan Cox, Tony DeStefano, Eric Eitel, Larry Jaworski, Mina Kim, Gwyn Novak, Carrie Polk, Kasia Sweeney

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Benton, Stacey Hann-Ruff*, Tommy Luginbill, Kim Owen, Scott Russey*, Kristin Williams

GUESTS PRESENT: Lisa Creason – Small Business Development Center, Joy Hill – Boys & Girls Club of Southern Maryland, Angella Hunter – Soil Conservation, Terry Long – Arc of Southern Maryland, Judy Mackall – Planning & Zoning, Jennifer Moreland – Calvert County Community Resources, Amanda Peterson – Calvert Hospice, Anna Tillack – SMILE, Inc.

STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Robertson-Slagle, Danita Boonchaisri, Kathy MacAdams, Hilary Dailey, Dawn Wood, Tammy Bowen

*Excused Absence

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Tony DeStefano.

II. CALL FOR AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 14, 2020 MEETING

On a **motion** by Kasia Sweeney, seconded by Jaworski and carried, the minutes from the October 14, 2020, meeting were approved as submitted.

IV. "THE SEASON OF GIVING" VIRTUAL WALK

- Jennifer Moreland – Calvert County Community Resources
<https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/94/Community-Resources>

Jennifer Moreland, Director of Calvert County Community Resources, gave an overview on the state of nonprofits/charities in Calvert County. She reported that there is not enough funding or volunteers available to support local nonprofits. Seniors make up the majority of volunteers,

Maryland Relay for Impaired Hearing or Speech: 1-800-735-2258

however, as many are at high risk for COVID-19, the volunteer pool has dwindled and there is an urgent need to fill this void. Ecumenical charities such as SMILE, Project Echo and Community Ministry of Calvert County rely heavily on donations from churches, but as churches are meeting less frequently and with much lower attendance, donations from the faith-based community have vastly declined at a time when the needs of the local community have greatly increased.

Representatives from four local nonprofits then presented on the struggles their respective organizations are facing to fulfill the needs of the community in the wake of the pandemic.

- Terry Long – Arc of Southern Maryland
<https://thearc.org/chapter/the-arc-of-southern-maryland/>
- Amanda Peterson – Calvert Hospice
<https://calverthospice.org/>
- Joy Hill – Boys & Girls Club of Southern Maryland
<https://bgcsm.net/>
- Anna Tillack – SMILE, Inc.
<https://smileinc.org/>

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Maryland Restaurant Relief Grant Fund Update

Kelly Robertson-Slagle reported on the Maryland Restaurant Relief Grant Fund. These grant funds were allotted to each county based on the number of restaurants and were administered at the discretion of each jurisdiction. Calvert County received \$646,295 and Economic Development staff determined that small restaurants with one to seven full-time equivalent employees could receive \$10,000, and large restaurants with eight or more full-time equivalent employees would be eligible for \$15,000. In an effort to assist as many Calvert businesses as possible, restrictions were eased to allow businesses holding food service permits, such as Bed & Breakfasts and food vendor trucks, to receive much needed assistance. Out of a total of 78 applicants, 73 received funding. As the Restaurant Relief Grant funds were quickly depleted, Economic Development staff reached out to the Board of County Commissioners and were able to secure additional CARES Act money to satisfy funding for all of the qualified applicants. With the additional CARES Act funds, Calvert County's food establishments received a total of \$965,000, with 26 businesses receiving \$10,000 and 47 receiving \$15,000. A detailed breakdown of how this money was disbursed will be available in the near future.

B. Creation of a New Agri-Tourism Committee

Kathy MacAdams reported on a recent virtual meeting held by the newly ceated Agri-Tourism Committee. She noted that Corinthia Briscoe, co-owner of Cage Farm, was in attendance and a discussion was held concerning struggles faced by Calvert's agri-tourism businesses. MacAdams plans to invite other farm owners to future meetings so that committee members can hear and discuss their challenges and concerns. The next meeting is scheduled for January 25 at 9:00 a.m. and MacAdams encouraged EDAC members to participate.

C. EDAC Membership/Attendance

Danita Boonchaisri reported that there are currently no vacancies on the EDAC. She noted, however, that over the past year some members have not been active participants. She expressed understanding that busy schedules and other commitments make it difficult for some members to regularly attend meetings. She encouraged those who are unable to consistently participate to resign to allow the EDAC to be a more engaging and productive commission.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next EDAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 9 a.m. Location TBD but this meeting will likely be virtual.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, a **motion** to adjourn was made by Jaworski at 10:02 a.m. The **motion** was seconded by Carrie Polk, and carried.