



Washington County Economic Development Commission Board

June 9, 2016

The annual meeting of the Washington County Economic Development Commission Board (EDC) was held at 100 West Washington Street, Suite 1408. The following members were present: Hugh Breslin (Chair), Julie Rohm (Vice Chair), Ed Lough (Secretary), Jef Bohn, Paul Crampton, Dawn Hatzer, Jim Herbert, Bob Jeffers, Joshua Martin, Michael Reyka, and Janet Stiles Fulton.

Ex-Officio members in attendance were Kristin Aleshire, Council Member with the City of Hagerstown and Jill Frick Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Hagerstown.

County staff in attendance was Leslie Hart, Kassie Lewis, Tabitha Porterfield, Linda Spence, Sarah Sprecher, and Aaron Stoner.

Guest in attendance included Gary Bockrath and Michael Fitzgerald.

Call to Order – Hugh Breslin called the meeting to order. He reported Donald Munson and Greg Snook were excused from the meeting. He welcomed Gary Bockrath and Michael Fitzgerald to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda – A motion to approve the meeting agenda for June 9 was made by Jim Herbert, seconded by Michael Reyka and unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes – Bob Jeffers motioned to approve the meeting minutes of May 12, 2016 as presented. The motion was seconded by Hugh Breslin and approved unanimously.

Director's Report – Kassie Lewis reported on plans to increase the department's marketing efforts by targeting site consultants and real estate brokers. Purchasing and/or renting contact list(s) through various organizations will allow us to reach a broader range of economic development professionals who assist companies in their location and relocation decisions. Ms. Lewis noted the DBD is again partnering with the MD Department of Commerce, MD Small Business Development Center, Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce, and members of Smith Elliott Kearns and Company (SEK) to host a second *Export Forum* in Washington County. Following the first forum, SEK requested a second for their clients and others in the accounting profession to learn more about exporting opportunities and resources available. Representatives from the World Trade Center Institute, U.S. Department of Commerce, Small Business Administration's Office of International Trade, MD Small Business Development Center, Export-Import Bank of the United States, and others will be asked to make presentations.

Elected Officials' Comments – Council Member Kristin Aleshire announced a Housing Summit will be held on July 19 aimed at providing valuable programs regarding housing, rentals, vacancies, subsidized housing, etc. The meeting is open to the public and the cost to attend is \$20. The program is similar to that of the "Dallas Plan." He encouraged all to attend.

Executive Committee – Ed Lough explained the Executive Committee members recommend the following Slate of Officers and remaining members Julie Rohm, Chair; Ed Lough, Vice Chair; Michael Reyka, Secretary; and Hugh Breslin, Dawn Hatzer and Jim Herbert. *Janet Stiles Fulton made a motion to approve the Slate of Officers and the three additional members to round out the Executive Committee. Paul Crampton seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.* Linda Spence noted a list of meeting dates for Fiscal Year '17 was included in the meeting packet. Julie Rohm urged members to review the enclosed description of the EDC

Board's committees and to complete the sign-up form with the name of the committee they are interested in serving on. If you are currently serving on a committee and would like to change, now is the time. The community at-large are also recruited to serve on committees. Hugh Breslin presented Jef Bohn, Paul Crampton, and Bob Jeffers with Certificates of Appreciation for their service on the EDC Board.

City Center Committee – Hugh Breslin noted the committee was formed originally out of a need to move the Strategic Economic Development Plan and put into practice, the EDC's support for the development of a strong downtown core. The committee went dormant for a period of time while the City of Hagerstown moved its own strategic initiatives forward. Mr. Breslin felt with recent investments in the downtown area between the City, County, and Board of Education, it's time for the committee to again revive its support and become another resource for all revitalization efforts. Jim Herbert reminded members that Antietam Cable recently invested \$3.5M to ensure broadband services are available in downtown Hagerstown. Jill Frick, on behalf of the City of Hagerstown and the Community and Economic Development Department, expressed appreciation to everyone for their continued support and partnerships.

Education and Workforce Development Committee – Dawn Hatzer reported that more than 700 students at North Hagerstown High School participated in the Career Exploration Day event. Businesses provided students with a broad view of career opportunities available. She thanked Leslie Hart for bringing in agricultural representatives, including an officer from the Department of Natural Resources. Ms. Hatzer also praised Bob Jeffers for his dedication and efforts in bringing this event to fruition. Members discussed the potential of expanding the program next year, to which Ms. Hatzer stated all ideas and suggestions are welcome. Bob Jeffers expressed appreciation for the opportunity to bring education and workforce development into the forefront for students, educators, and business representatives.

Infrastructure Committee – Jim Herbert reported the first meeting of the committee will be held on June 28.

Marketing and Communications Committee – Julie Rohm explained the *Bacon, Breakfast and Business* event scheduled for September 23 has numerous sponsorship opportunities available. She noted planning for the March 31, 2017 Procurement Fair is underway and Linda Spence may be contacting members to help with some of the logistics.

Old Business – Sarah Sprecher announced the Hagerstown Regional Airport will host a business appreciation luncheon for airport businesses on July 13 at noon, at the terminal and board members are invited to attend.

New Business – Leslie Hart reported that she and Commissioner Wayne Keefer recently toured farms in the Big Pool and Clear Spring areas. She noted farmers' markets seem to be popping up throughout the county. Ms. Hart explained the Washington County Public Schools continue to source local food and will can and freeze products in the summer for the winter months when schools are back in session. The Ag Expo & Fair will be held the week of July 16-23.

Closed Session – Ed Lough motioned to go into Closed Session to consider a matter concerning the proposal of a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; or any personnel matters in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland. The motion was seconded by Bob Jeffers. Hearing no discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Open Session – On a motion made by Hugh Breslin to return to Open Session and seconded by Jim Herbert, the motion was unanimously approved. Present during Closed Session were Kristin Aleshire, Hugh Breslin, Jef Bohn, Paul Crampton, Jill Frick, Carmen Harbaugh, Dawn Hatzer, Jim Herbert, Bob Jeffers, Kassie Lewis, Ed Lough, Joshua Martin, Tabitha Porterfield, Michael Reyka, Julie Rohm, Andrew Sargent, Aaron Stoner, Linda Spence, Sarah Sprecher, and Janet Stiles Fulton.

Adjournment – Bob Jeffers made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Michael Reyka. Hearing no discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Linda Spence, Business Support Specialist
Washington County Department of Business Development
and
Recording Clerk for the Washington County Economic
Development Commission Board