

Minutes

Economic Development Commission

October 23, 2023

The meeting of the Economic Development Commission was called to order on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 7pm. In attendance were Chair Linda Morgan, Secretary LeAnne Tennant, Kelly Renehan, Ryan Csajko, Lamar Estridge, Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioner Mary-Ann Brodie-Ennis, and Communications Specialist Ashley Bailey. Two citizens. Vice President Bob McNally was absent.

- 1) Approved minutes from September 18th meeting: Ryan motioned; Lamar seconded. All in favor
Passed 4-0
- 2) Networking event:
 - Linda will follow up with the director from Maryland Main Street Program. Scheduling conflict occurred in October.
 - Ryan stated it was nice to hear the Walkersville Railroad signed a long-term contract.
 - Kelly stated it was a good launching point; key players especially president from the railroad; good direction.
 - Lamar stated it was a good starting point; nice to get together to share ideas; ice breaker; learning expectations or what businesses need.
 - LeAnne stated it was nice the Walkersville Railroad was open to set up popup shops for businesses in the area.
 - A citizen, Bob Sussman, shared the round circle was great way to initiate what we are trying to achieve. Getting the Railroad more involved would be great.
 - Ryan mentioned it may be nice to have an event in the Spring at the Walkersville Railroad.
 - Lamar volunteered to reach out to a contact that could possibly provide contact information to the Railroad to get conversation started.
 - Ashley shared that the one-on-one interactions are important, we could still have the group circle, however, one-on-one interactions are very important for individual businesses to share what their needs.
 - Ryan shared there was some negative moments, not having an agenda in a setting like that does not work.
 - Linda agreed to having an agenda, topic, or talking points going forward for other events.

New Business:

- Ashley shared a new business coming to 25B Maple Ave, Baav Productions, screen printing and embroidery business. He has a store front in the mall. Walkersville location will be production only.

Burgess Chad Weddle comments/concerns:

- Need to schedule December meeting – Christmas falls on EDC normal meeting day
- Chad met with a business that does not want to be publicized yet, however, recommended coming to EDC meeting. They may need some zoning work.
- Encourages EDC Networking Event to be an annual meeting.
- Provided EDC members Chapter 53 (which is really Chapter 21) due to WBPA meeting monthly and EDC meeting monthly- under Chapter 53.7 EDC may want to consider meeting every other month to avoid duplication.
- Chad quoted Chapter 53.7F – Chad may include the burgess and sometimes the burgess may request EDC at some time.
- EDC can have an outside member if they are a business owner, the Town could advertise for that position if EDC is interested.
- Ask the WBPA to select a member from their organization to share once a month. That way it would help WBPA to attract businesses.
- Thought the networking event was a good event, suggest an agenda going forward, and everything provided (food) was good.

Additional Comments:

- Ashley will send an email out regarding December meeting.
- November EDC meeting will meet November 27th.
- Ashley suggested to come up with a collaborative list of questions to come up for businesses and interview once a month, and EDC an advertise.
- WBPA advertises a member of the month (located in Walkersville and Woodsboro) and stated they could pass along the information if EDC interested.
- Ryan also suggested from EDC to pass information to WBPA.
- Walkersville Annual ChristKindl Market is an opportunity for businesses to advertise.

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm