

## Minutes

### Economic Development Commission

November 27, 2023

The meeting of the Economic Development Commission was called to order on Monday, November 27, 2023 at 7pm. In attendance were Chair Linda Morgan, Ryan Csajko, Kelly Renehan, Bob McNally via phone, Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioner Mary-Ann Brodie-Ennis, and Communications Specialist Ashley Bailey. Two citizens. Secretary LeAnne Tennant and Lamar Estridge were absent.

1. Approved minutes from October 23 meeting: Ryan Motioned, Linda seconded. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.
2. Maryland Main Street:
  - a. Linda is currently working on establishing a meeting. Will continue to pursue but likely after first of the year.
3. WBPA update: Ryan in frequent contact, will obtain their Member of the Month questions to pass along for EDC to share. Their holiday party will be held at McLaughlin Chiropractic Office.
4. December meeting date: moved to 12/18 due to Christmas.
5. Nathan Property Letter: all members received an email regarding the Nathan Property, however at this time it is not something the EDC can act on or assist with. Helpful from a historical background of the property.
6. Name Badges for commissioners: Linda expressed interest in having name badges for members for impromptu business meetings or interactions to help identify ourselves from the town in a professional manner. Linda and Ashley to investigate cost effective options.
7. Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies:
  - a. Tricky Ink: Ryan met with the owner. Very excited to be in town, has a good following coming to new location. Currently not interested in a ribbon cutting ceremony but has Ryan's business card if any needs arise.
  - b. Salon next to barber shop likely to have a ribbon cutting ceremony.
  - c. Aesthetician coming to town also likely to desire a ceremony. Ashley will follow up with dates as the businesses are ready.
  - d. Baav studios: will inquire if he is interested, especially if it may generate new interest in his business, despite Walkersville location being for production not storefront sales location.
8. Whistle Stop:
  - a. New coffee shop located at Walkersville Scenic Southern Railroad (WSSR), currently open Saturdays and Sundays in December from 10am-2pm coinciding with the WSSR Santa Trains via an Event Permit.

- a. Needs from owner: permanent licensing beyond events permit, to which she needs at least one event every month to continue. Currently the Santa Trains via WSSR provide her with work for December. Discussed plan after the holidays. A ribbon cutting ceremony in January then perhaps a WBPA event for her in February, and for March the WSSR would open for the Easter Bunny Trains.
  - b. Additional needs are water set up and crowd control. Ultimately hopes to have mobile trailer.
10. WSSR Pop up: 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend in May. Potentially 5/18. Needs in months leading up to event would be find businesses to participate, size, registration or application requirements and/or fees, footprint for tents, any DPW areas of concerns or needs at location.
- a. Historical Society may be a good source for process and interested participants given their successful execution of the Christkindlmarket.
  - b. Walkersville Fire Company recently hosted a similar event, may also be a good asset for information.
  - c. Additional space can be in back of WSSR, in the “potato patch.” Also discussed if there would be a need to contact Walkersville Feed Company in regard to space for the event. Ashley volunteered to make contact if needed.
  - d. Goal is to have tasks assigned and date determined by end of January to begin preparation.
  - e. Whistle Stop Owner Felicia Warfield-Martin mentioned the Rock Creek School Art Director reached out to her regarding vocational tasks their students would be able to help with such as promotional materials and advertisements by way of local student artwork.

Meeting Adjourned 7:40 pm