

GRHBA Minutes November 24, 2020

Secretary Cindy Genter called the meeting to order at 9:02am and stated Suzanne will provide a treasury report summary separately.

Economic Development: Jamie Williams discussed county efforts to combine Economic Development and Tourism department and a presentation will be made to the County Commissioners on 12/1. 51 applications have been received for the county's restaurant grants program. Recommendations will be presented to the Commissioners on 12/1, then recipients will be notified. The county maintains a commercial property database. Anyone interested in listing their property for sale or lease should contact Jamie to have it included. There is a new web page on the County's Ec. Dev. site for Data Center attraction.

Tourism: Jana Carter reported they are finalizing the advertising plan for Jan-Jun 2021. The County will do some print coop ads, but more digital and will add radio advertising. They have a grant for hometown local promotion and are building the County's Tourism YouTube Channel, which will feature local business videos. They will print some Visitor Guides for 2021, but will primarily use digital version with links to businesses. Maryland State Storyteller training will be in early 2021. Contact Jana if interested.

Town of Rock Hall: Dawn Jacobs discussed the Community Development Block Grant Income Survey that will provide funds for water and sewer upgrades. The town needs 80% response, but is only at 55% response rate so far. Attached is a flyer about the importance of this survey. Please post it at your business and encourage residents to complete the survey. The town-sponsored carriage rides on 11/28 and all events for the rest of 2020 have been cancelled due to Covid-19. The basket tree will be put up but there will be no lighting ceremony. Businesses need to be aware of state restrictions. Kent County virus stats are below the critical threshold.

Main Street Rock Hall (MSRH): Cindy said Small Business Saturday is 11/28 and MSRH is offering free hot chocolate at Java Rock to anyone who spends \$20 or more at our local retail businesses. The new Rock Hall Postcards are available now. They will be available at retail businesses on Main Street. The holiday cards are also available.

Old Business: Cindy said GRHBA is working on the 2021 Rock Hall brochure to be available in late January.

Debra Woodruff-Capper said the Mainstay is looking to hire part time help to do office and bookkeeping work about 10 hours per week. Call Debra at 610-220-9104 or send email to info@mainstayrockhall.org.

GRHBA will not meet in December. The next meeting will be January 26, 2021.

Happy Holidays to all!