

GRHBA August Meeting – Tuesday August 31, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 by president Suzanne Einstein.

The Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet from July was reported. The P&L shows us spending more than we took in (-\$8000) because we purchased most of all of the P&W merchandise during July, but we received most of the income in August. The balance sheet as of July shows we have approximately \$25,000 and will show the additional income from the merchandise sale (\$5,000) in the month of August.

Would like to do Ribbon Cutting at American Service Center. Will coordinate with Economic Development and Chamber.

Thanks to members who are helping to open and close the Visitors Center (Deborah & Bob T.) Additional volunteers needed. Contact Suzanne if interested. Investigate a smart lock. Deborah Reese agreed to look into a new flag pole. Suzanne will ask Town Manager for a new flag.

P&W Report by Jim Rich & Laurie Walters. Event went very well and has become a family friendly festival. Vendors reported they did well. Volunteers will be needed for next year.

FallFest letters for donations going out this week. Will be remembering Tom McHugh at the event.

Jana reported on Economic Development & Tourism:
Telework grant up to \$3000 for remote business (or non-profits) operations.

Project Restore, DHCD grants for property or rental costs for new business locations that have not been used for at least 6 months. Applications open Sept. 8.

Economic Development & Tourism will publish newsletters. Contact them to sign up. They will also post hiring needs for businesses.

See Economic Development website or call Katie or Jamie for details on all the above.

Tourism is working on holiday marketing. They report success with their box truck marketing for Kent County. This is a delivery truck that travels to PA, NJ & DE and has an ad for Kent County, MD.

MSRH reported new directional signage will be installed in 3 locations on Main Street within the next month. Hometown Christmas (by Parks & Rec) is scheduled for end of November, same day as Small Business Saturday. MSRH and GRHBA will be looking to promote shopping local in Rock Hall. Pop-up shops were discussed as a possibility. GRHBA will have a sub-committee to work on the Small Business Saturday event.

Town of Rock Hall: Dawn talked about finding locations for town offices.

We are planning for Small Business Saturday, a national event, to promote small business shopping. Brad Medley will chair the committee. anyone interested should contact Brad at brad.medley@rockhalescape.com

Rick Carter reported on the shuttles - P&W Friday was great, but last Friday was very slow. He picked up 41 people on Saturday which is the most he's had other than P&W weekend. He expects it to improve as word spreads. He will be out on Labor Day Weekend and then re-assess.