

Minutes from the April 26, 2022 GRHBA Meeting:

In attendance: Suzanne Einstein (Blue Crab Charters), Jim Rich (Java, Huntingfield), Cindy Genter (Rock Hall Properties), Jana Carter (ED&T), Jamie Dempsey (American RH Service), Steve Atkinson (ShoretobeFun.com); Dawn Jacobs (Mayor), Debra-Woodruff Capper (Lions), Kelly Crouse (Selkie Books), Laurie Walters (MSRH), Beth Dunn (RHYC), Leslie Sea (WCTR), Harriet Creighton (Peoples Bank), Rick Carter (Delmarva Craft), Dawson Hunter KC LMB, Barbi Harms (The Blissful Retreat), Kevin Hodge (Blue Heron Oyster Bar), Bob Tacher (Breese Sailmaker), Sandy Scott (Hickory Stick), Carol Britten (Town Webmaster), Joe Musike (Experience Sail), Matt Mielnick (The Mainstay), Bob Resele.

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 9:02am. Attendees introduced themselves.

Rick Carter and Dawson Hunter spoke about re-establishing the Rock Hall Trolley as a public/private partnership to increase Economic Development in Kent County. A dedicated trolley will service Rock Hall on weekends from Memorial Day to FallFest. With additional funding from the KC Commissioners Rick will provide additional service via a second trolley to make runs to Tolchester and Chestertown on weekends. Rick has received \$9,000 in donations from Rock Hall businesses that will be used to run the Rock Hall Trolley service. Rider fees will be \$5.00 for one roundtrip fare; \$10.00 for an all day pass; \$100 for a season pass. Additional funding from the KC Commissioners will allow service to be expanded to Tolchester and Chestertown.

GRHBA Report:

- Balance Sheet and P&L were handed out and reviewed by Jim Rich.
- May 20, 4-6pm will be a Welcome Event for businesses in the Village Shops. Clean up to be done before then,
- Blue Heron Oyster Bar is planning to open May 11. They will open 7 days/week for the season; closing for a few weeks in January. New interior. Music planned on weekend nights.

Economic Development & Tourism (ED&T): Jana reported 8 applications were received for \$50,000 Micro Ag Grants. SB 275 passed – the Family and Medical Leave Plan which mandates 12 weeks paid leave. Email Jamie Williams with questions. Recent Spin Sheet article on Rock Hall. Others to follow.

Chesapeake By-way AAR Stakeholder Session: 419 miles of Chesapeake By-ways. This is a plan to tell stories of the region for outdoor recreation. Rock Hall focus will be on Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge.

Main Street Rock Hall (MSRH): Laurie Walters said MSRH is applying for a DHCD Grant for marketing and grant writer. Mascots will return to Rock Hall restaurants for Memorial Day. Donations are needed for Pirates and Wenches Treasure Chest Raffle. FallFest meeting will start in June. The Witches of Rock Hall will happen in October. More to follow.

Dawn Jacobs reported for the town: Dawn noted the Town-wide Yard Sale this Saturday, April 30. The Legion will host Fall Bike Fest this year. Re: public works – the pump stations are clogging with rags and wipes. \$100,000 needed for repairs. Museum Board has on-going meetings. There is a survey for the town building, responses due by Friday; Survey is available via link on the town website. Carol Britten is the town webmaster: cbritton5616@gmail.com.

Member Business Comments:

Mainstay 25th Anniversary Gala will be July 9, 6-10; \$100 per ticket; 10 item raffle and a silent auction

Rock Hall Yacht Club will have Italian Night on May 20. Open to the public.

Lions Club thanked our businesses for Circus donations. Enough money was raised to provide a ticket for every RHES student. Circus is May 6 at the Civic Center

WCTR will re-start First Fridays in May in Rock Hall at their remote site near Harbor Shack. Businesses invited to stop by.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 am. The next meeting will be April 26th at the Fire House at 9:00am.

Cindy Genter, GRHBA Secretary