

Minutes from the June 28, 2022 GRHBA Meeting:

In attendance: Suzanne Einstein (Blue Crab Charters), Cindy Genter (Rock Hall Properties)(remote), Megan Glenn (Rock Hall Landing), Jana Carter (ED&T), Steve Atkinson (ShoretobeFun.com), Debra-Woodruff Capper (Lions), Laurie Walters (MSRH), Beth Dunn (RHYC), Leslie Sea (WCTR), Rick Carter (Delmarva Craft), Harriet Creighton (Peoples Bank), Sandy Scott (Hickory Stick), Mayor Dawn Jacobs (Town of Rock Hall), Dawn & Heidi (Hoffman Pest), Annette May (Tangerine Shop), Kelly Crouse (Selkie Books), Stephanie Chevalier (Chevalier Musique), Sarah King (KC Chamber of Commerce).

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

GRHBA Report:

- Balance Sheet and P&L were reviewed by Suzanne. Advertising expenses were incurred in June.
- Advertising: Pirates & Wenches cards available. Businesses can get a free listing in the Maryland State Visitors Guide. Link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfEr6hbFUKCNQG9Q1PCcW76eqDxHDBt7blzw803BOynGAbVLA/viewform>
- The US Power Squadron will have a cruise to Rock Hall on July 29 & 30. Expect up to 100 attendees.
- The Town of Rock Hall will increase the Business License fee for this fiscal year from \$75 to \$100.

Economic Development & Tourism:

- Jana reported DHCD Project Restore Grant applications open July 7, 2022. The grant is for businesses opening in commercial buildings that have been unoccupied for more than 6 months to receive up to \$530,000. These must be "ready to go" projects with a business plan. Ask Katie Wright for info: kwright@kentgov.org
- There is a new webpage for entry level jobs in Kent County: <https://www.kentcounty.com/business/workforce/kentyouthopps>
- The Baltimore Symphony has scheduled their only Eastern Shore visit this year for Chestertown on Saturday, Aug. 6 at 7pm. There will be a kids program on Aug. 6 at 10:00 at the Farmers Market.
- Kent County is involved in a Passenger Ferry Project with Anne Arundel County. The project includes a feasibility study and destination assessment.

Main Street Rock Hall (MSRH): Laurie Walters said in addition to the DHCD Grant for marketing and a grant writer, MSRH has applied for a \$10,000 DHCD grant for Main Street Affiliates. This grant will be used for a wireless speaker system on Main Street. Pirates & Wenches has extra challenges this year with the prices of gas/transportation and recycling impacting financials and potentially attendance. FallFest meetings started in June. Stephanie Chevalier is coordinating The Witches of Rock Hall, and expanding this fun time into a weekend event the last weekend of October. Next MSRH meeting is 7/19 at 4:00 at Java Rock.

Dawn Jacobs said July 4th activities include the Baby Contest on 7/1, Fish Fry on 7/2, Watermans Day and Fireworks on 7/3 and Parade and Festival at the Civic Center on 7/4. The town budget faced challenges to increase employee compensation and pay for maintenance without increasing taxes. Donations to GRHBA and MSRH have been reduced. The budget hearing is June 30. There will be minimal water and sewer rate increases for pump station maintenance.

Megan Glenn reported 1000 Triathlon participants. The town gets compensated for expenses. A fall Triathlon is planned. Sarah King (new Executive Director for the Kent County Chamber of Commerce) is looking for ways to bring more business to Kent County. The Chamber has new committees: Voice of Business, Business Development and Events. Fall Fun Fest is on September 24 @ 2:00 and free for Chamber members to bring a table/game/etc. Chamber member benefits include press releases & distribution, E-Blasts, etc. Membership is affordable and based on # of employees. Rick Carter reported steadily increasing shuttle ridership. 95% of demand is within Rock Hall. Need to increase awareness of moving people between towns. Mainstay Gala is July 9, tickets at \$100 each available until 7/7.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15am. The next meeting will be July 26th at the Fire House at 9:00am.

Cindy Genter, GRHBA Secretary