

Minutes from the May 31, 2022 GRHBA Meeting:

In attendance: Suzanne Einstein (Blue Crab Charters), Jim Rich (Java, Huntingfield), Cindy Genter (Rock Hall Properties), Jamie Williams (ED&T), Steve Atkinson (ShoretobeFun.com), Debra-Woodruff Capper (Lions), Laurie Walters (MSRH), Beth Dunn (RHYC), Leslie Sea (WCTR)(remote), Rick Carter (Delmarva Craft), Barbi Harms (The Blissful Retreat), Sandy Scott (Hickory Stick), Carol Britten (Town Webmaster), Laurie Walters (MSRH), Dawn & Heidi (Hoffman Pest), Annette May (Tangerine Shop), Deborah Reese (Cinnamon By The Bay).

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Attendees introduced themselves.

GRHBA Report:

- Balance Sheet and P&L were handed out and reviewed by Jim Rich. \$5,000 income from the town; \$4,800 expense for the brochure/map.
- Successful Ribbon Cuttings at 4 Village Shops on May 20 followed by Rock Hall Landing Ribbon Cutting on May 21. Many requests to continue live music once a month at the Village Gazebo.
- Spring print ads were in What's Up Eastern Shore, Kent News Tea Party Edition, Bay Times, Bay to Beach and Recreation News. Visitors Guides will be delivered to the Welcome Center this week. The Shuttle was advertised in the Tidewater Trader.

Memorial Day Weekend Recap:

Business owners reported a great weekend! Chief Dempsey said he never saw this many people in town. Rick Carter reported the Shuttle carried 54 people – the 3rd highest number ever for a weekend in the past year. Four people rode from Tolchester. Friday was slow; Saturday was busy; requests for rides came on Sunday. New hours were suggested: 4-11 on Fridays, 10a-11p on Saturdays; 9a-1p on Sundays. Some restaurants closed early due to staffing issues.

Economic Development & Tourism (ED&T): Jamie reported Kent County job ads info was sent to Kent & Queen Anne's High School students. USA Fullfillment in Chestertown will be closing June 30. They will host a Job Fair on June 22 for their employees. Hiring employers are welcome to attend. June 7 is the public hearing for the County's 2023 Budget. Business owners should attend to voice support for the \$15,000 contribution to LMB/Delmarva Craft for transportation. Details are emerging for the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund grant from Maryland Commerce. Each of 5 Regional Councils will receive \$10M. Kent County is projected to get about \$2.6M. Jamie will proposal an application and award-scoring process to the Commissioners. Towns, organizations and non-profits are eligible, not for-profit businesses

Main Street Rock Hall (MSRH): Laurie Walters said MSRH applied for a DHCD Grant for marketing and grant writer. Mascots have returned to Rock Hall restaurants & will be up til July 1. Visitors & residents are encouraged to take photos and post on MSRH's Facebook page. Town approval needed on RV parking permits for entertainers for Pirates and Wenches. Some entertainers will not come if no RV parking in town. MSRH partnered with KC Public Library on a Flower Power painting project in conjunction with the Garden Club of Rock Hall's Garden Tour. The Witches of Rock Hall is looking for someone to coordinate and expand this event. Next MSRH meeting is 6/21 at 4:00 at Java Rock.

Suzanne reported for Mayor Jacobs that the 4th of July Parade is on for 10:00am with activities at the Civic Center after. The Triathlon is this weekend. The Dog Park will be at the north field at the Lagoon when completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12am. The next meeting will be June 28th at the Fire House at 9:00am.

Cindy Genter, GRHBA Secretary