

## Minutes from the April 25, 2023 GRHBA Meeting:

Attendees: Suzanne Einstein (Blue Crab Chesapeake Charters), Jim Rich (Inn at Huntingfield, Java, Sweet Cheeks), Cindy Genter (Rock Hall Properties), Mayor Dawn Jacobs (Town of Rock Hall), James Cook (RH Town Council Member), Steve Atkinson (ShoretobeFun.com), Debra Woodruff Capper (Lions Club), Sarah King (Kent County Chamber of Commerce), Joe Musike (Experience Sail), Rose Osborn (KC E&TD), Kim Porter (PBKC), Laurie Walters (MSRH), Brette Tucker (Durdings), Marta Kumar & Kelly Crouse (Selkie Books), Deborah Reese (Cinnamon by the Bay).

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 9:06. Attendees introduced themselves.

### GRHBA Report:

- Quarterly Board Meeting was 4/18. The 2023 Budget was approved & taxes filed. 2023 Goals and 2023 Events discussed.
- Financials & Budget: Jim Rich reported checking account balance was approximately \$56,000. The budget was presented and includes \$1,500 for transportation.
- Deborah said two remote locks were tried and did not lock remotely. A manual lock will be installed. New signs and lighting for the Visitors Center have been installed. New racks will be ordered.
- A Ribbon Cutting was held for Crickets Pet Supply on 4/22. Ribbon Cuttings are planned for High Tide and Rabbit Rescue in the Village Shops, Tangerine Too, Bayside Auctions & Rock City Café. One year anniversary Mixer at Blue Heron in June.

**Main Street Rock Hall (MSRH):** This morning John Elburn and Danny Usilton moved the Old Salt statue from Main Street to John Elburn's shop for repairs funded by the \$10,000 MIP Grant. Laurie announced recipients of the Building Improvement Grant include Bayside Market, Baywolf, Durdings, Fresh Start & Hickory Stick. MSRH applied for a MHAA grant for additional funds for improvements around Old Salt. Next MSRH Meeting is 5/18 at 9:00am at The Mainstay. Pirates & Wenches meeting is 5:00pm on 5/15@Java. Volunteers & donations needed.

**Economic & Tourism Development:** Rose Osborn reported Jamie & Katie are at the META conference. Shalyn has been running KC ads on Baltimore TV stations and a segment on Mid-Day MD. Kristina Hyland is social media intern.

**Town of Rock Hall:** Dawn Jacobs reminded May 6 is the Election. Candidate Forum is 4/25. Water bills are late due to Post Office issues. Grants: \$12M received for infrastructure; \$62M is needed for all public works projects. Community Yard Sale was a success. Next town events is 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Work has started at the Civic Center drainage project. Dawn mentioned the traveling Smithsonian exhibit in Chestertown at the Cultural Center. Absentee ballot applications for the town election are available at the town office. James Cook said one of his initiatives will be a marine trade school in conjunction with Chesapeake College and local businesses.

**Chamber of Commerce:** Sarah King said Rhythm & Brews Festival on 4/15 was successful; The Career and College Fair at KCHS had 75 business participants and was well received by KCHS students. A Mixer is planned for 4/28 at Crow Vineyard. May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Legislative Wrap-up Breakfast at Heron Point at 8:30am.

**Rock Hall Comp Plan:** Cindy Genter attends RH Planning Commission meetings where the RH Comp Plan is being reviewed. She said current proposal for the Marine District (harbor waterfront) in Rock Hall Harbor is similar to the existing Maritime Water-Dependent zoning which restricts restaurants, lodging and general retail businesses. Some existing businesses would remain non-conforming uses. Referencing the 2016 Rock Hall Waterfront Committee Recommendation, Cindy suggested the Marine zone allow for expanded commercial uses in the Marine District. The Board and all members in attendance agreed that GRHBA send a letter to the Planning Commission supporting expanded commercial uses in the Marine zoning district.

### Member Events & Comments

- Lions Club: will have a Raffle during Pirates & Wenches Weekend. They have Marine Trade scholarships available
- Durdings will open next week.
- Mainstay: Free Movie Night started on 4/21. The annual Gala will be July 8.
- Stuff at Cinnamon By The Bay will open next week.
- Selkie Books: Bonnie Ford will be at Selkie Books this weekend for a book-signing. They will open at 10:00am on Saturdays.

Jim Rich reminded members the \$60,000 in annual town lodging tax revenue should go to Tourism Development.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27am. The next meeting will be May 30th at the Fire House at 9:00am.

Cindy Genter, GRHBA Secretary