

## Minutes from the August 29, 2023 GRHBA Meeting:

Attendees: Suzanne Einstein (Blue Crab Chesapeake Charters), Jim Rich (Inn at Huntingfield, Java, Sweet Cheeks), Cindy Genter (Rock Hall Properties), Shalyn Bouden (KC T&ED), Matt Mielnick (Mainstay), Kevin Hodge (Blue Heron Oyster House), Sandy Scott (Hickory Stick), Carol Britten (Town of Rock Hall Website), Susan Barnhardt (PBKC), Laurie Walters (MSRH), Deborah Reese (Cinnamon by the Bay), Debra Woodruff-Capper (Lions), Steve Atkinson (ShoreToBeFun.com), Steve Leonard (American Service Center), Cathy Cessna (Non-Profit Consulting), Robin Hawthorne (Hightide), Tiffany Hague (Grammy's Goodies), Casey Carroll (Bayside Market), Richard Seewald (Fresh Start & RH Town Council).

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 9:02. Attendees introduced themselves. July minutes were approved.

### GRHBA Report:

- Financials & Budget: P&L and Balance Sheet were distributed.
- Pirates Merchandise: We spent \$19,000 & brought in \$24,000 on merchandise sales; \$5,000 profit.
- Ribbon Cuttings & Mixers: October Mixer is planned at Blue Heron for 10/18 or 19, 4-6pm. Kevin Hodge to confirm date. Ribbon Cutting at Hightide will be Sept. 16 at 9:00am at the Hightide shop. Plan to attend both!
- Shop Small Rock Hall is Saturday Nov. 26. Carriage rides are planned for Main Street. Laurie Walters will ask the Garden Club to decorate planters on Main Street. GRHBA will support the event with advertising.
- Cindy reported the Planning Commission confirmed the Public Hearing for the Comp Plan will be October 11, probably at 7:00pm. Cindy sent a link to the final draft to all members and will have a copy at her office. Susan Barnhardt will have a copy at Peoples Bank. Members may sign-out a copy to review. GRHBA members are encouraged to review and send comments in writing before the Public Hearing and to attend the public hearing. It was suggested and agreed that Cindy send a "Key Points" document and position statement to GRHBA members. Look for this in the next 2 weeks.
- Other: GRHBA received a thank you note from Delmarva Craft for shuttle donation. Shuttle stats forthcoming.

**Main Street Rock Hall (MSRH):** PorchFest and Witches Weekend will come under MSRH events, but are coordinated by Stephanie Chevalier. PorchFest is 9/3, 1-5 with music at the Village Gazebo, Mainstay, Java Rock & McLaughlin's porches. Grants are in the works for 2023 and applications are being submitted for 2024. A 2024 Community Safety Grant is being considered for improvements to the Village bathrooms. This would be coordinated with Haven Harbour and the town. Feedback on Pirates & Witches weekend was very positive, with more kids on Main Street. Marta Kumer reported issues at the Village bathrooms. All are invited to a community meeting to discuss the future of this event. Date to be announced.

**Tourism & Economic Development:** Shalyn reported Sweet Cheeks provided 800 sample "goodies" for the MAACO Conference. As a result, Kent County had the most popular booth. Visit Annapolis applied for a grant for a tourist ferry feasibility study. Rock Hall is a possible stop.

**Town of Rock Hall:** Richard Seewald noted that the budget is complete. New water lines are being installed on Haven Road. This is a \$7M project. Thank you Richard for attending on behalf of the town.

### Member Events & Comments

- Lions Club: The Yard Sale is set for Sept. 15-16. Donations needed – bring to Main Street on Sept 14.
- Mainstay: Sept 16 is the Mainstay Gala. Tickets are \$100. Great food, music and auction items. Check the Mainstay website to order tickets.
- Kevin Hodge brought up continuing parking issues at the Blue Heron. While GHRBA has been supportive, he needs more help and cooperation from the town. Kevin has a meeting this week with the Mayor and Richard Seewald to discuss the situation and possible ideas for improvements.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32. The next meeting will be September 26th at the Fire House at 9:00am.

Cindy Genter, GRHBA Secretary