

## Revised Minutes from the March 28, 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), Rick Carter (Delmarva Craft), Steve Leonard (American RH Service Center, RHYC, RHVFC), Steve Atkinson (ShoretobeFun.com), Debra Woodruff Capper (Lions Club), Sarah King (Kent County Chamber of Commerce), Beth Dunn (MSRH), Kevin Hodge (Blue Heron Oyster House), Matt Mielnick (The Mainstay), Joe Musike (Experience Sail), Jamie Williams (KC T&ED), Kim Porter (PBKC), Laurie Walters (MSRH), Stephanie Chevalier (Chevalier Musique), Marta Kumar & Kelly Crouse (Selkie Books), Deborah Reese (Cinnamon by the Bay).

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 9:04. Attendees introduced themselves.

### GRHBA Report:

- Financials: Jim Rich reviewed the financials which were distributed at the meeting. \$5,000 will be paid in March for the 2023 brochures. The checking account balance as of 2/28/2023 was \$53,793.88.
- GRHBA is seeking volunteers to serve on our Board of Directors. Board meetings are once per quarter. Looking for a volunteer to help with virtual meetings at our monthly meetings. Contact Suzanne or Cindy if interested.
- Remote lock and signs for the Visitors Center are ready for the season. The Visitors Center will open April 1.
- Spring advertising for GRHBA is underway with ads in Bay to Beach, What's Up Annapolis, etc..
- Ribbon Cuttings are planned for Blue Heron Oyster House & Rock City Café. Details to follow.

**Main Street Rock Hall (MSRH):** Laurie reported there were 8 applications requesting \$52,000 for the \$25,000 Building Improvement Grant for businesses in MSRH district. 5 Projects were selected and sent to DHCD for approval. The \$10,000 MIP Grant will be used to restore the "Old Salt" statue at the corner of Rt. 20 Main St. Additional funds are being sought for a "pocket park" at the same location. Next MSRH Meeting is 4/20 at 9:00am at The Mainstay. All are welcome. Pirates & Wenches 2023 meetings have started. Next meeting 5:00pm on 4/17@Java. Volunteers are needed. Donations are needed for the Treasure Chest Raffle, a major fundraiser for P&W.

**Economic & Tourism Development:** Jamie Williams reported they are fully staffed now. Shalyn is Tourism Manager, Rose Osborn is administrative assistant. Katie Wright remains Economic Development Manager. They spent the \$250K in marketing funds for TV ad spots. Look for them on Balt. Stations. Fiscal Year 2024 budget is underway.

**Town of Rock Hall:** Dawn Jacobs reported Choptank Medical is here. There was a good turnout for the waterman health screening. The Easter Egg Hunt will be 4/2; The ball fields are ready for the season; capital grant requests are underway for infrastructure projects. The old Town Building is for sale – 2 bids were received. 5/6/23 is the election at St. Johns Hall. Register to vote by 4/3 and register to run for town council or mayor by 4/10.

**Chamber of Commerce:** Sarah King said the Rhythm & Brews Festival is 4/15; 4/20 is the Kent County Career and College Fair at the KCHS gym, open to KCHS students in grades 9-12 and the community. 4/7 is Ribbon Cutting for Park Row Floats. There is a Mixer planned for 4/28 at Crow Vineyard. The MD Energy Admin/Smart Energy Program has funding for commercial property energy efficiency updates. Contact Sarah for details.

**Transportation / Shuttle** - Rick Carter said advertising/sponsorships are needed. Shuttle will run Memorial Day through FallFest, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Additional runs to Chestertown are planned.

**Rock Hall Comp Plan:** Cindy Genter attends monthly RH Planning Commission meetings where the RH Comp Plan is being developed and reviewed. She highlighted proposed building limitations in the low-lying western portion of town.

### Member Events & Comments

- Stephanie Chevalier said Witches Weekend is planned for Oct. 27-29. She is also looking into a Porch Concert Series where people would volunteer their porches and musicians volunteer their time to play on the porches for the community to wander through town to listen to music.
- Lions Club: will have a Crab & Corn Feast Raffle during Pirates & Wenches Weekend.

- Mainstay: 7 shows scheduled in April with a greater variety of music. Open Mic Night (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed each month) is a big hit. The 1<sup>st</sup> bus trip (to Phila. Flower Show) was a success. Other bus trip ideas are welcome. Free outdoor movies start in April.
- Joe Musike/Experience Sail has a 4/14 Wounded Warriors Foundation Sail.
- Steve Leonard reported the CPR Class at RHYC is full. The RHVFC recently deputized 12 new fire police volunteers. RHVFC responded to 449 EMS calls last year! The Pool Tournament and Soup & Sub nights have been successful fundraisers.
- Steve Atkinson has a "Card of the Month" Club for subscribers.
- Blue Heron Oyster House will open their Tiki Bar on Mondays & Tuesdays after Memorial Day with limited menu.
- Rick Carter said Terry Ober will hold a TIPS class on 4/3, 6:00pm at the Kitty Knight. \$49 per person.
- The Community Yard Sale will be 4/22. Fresh Start will have their Artisan Craft Sale, the Mainstay Bar will be open & there will be a used boat gear yard sale in Durosher's lot.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23am. The next meeting will be April 25th at the Fire House at 9:00am.

Cindy Genther, GRHBA Secretary