

Minutes from the May 30, 2023 GRHBA Meeting:

Attendees: Suzanne Einstein (Blue Crab Chesapeake Charters), Jim Rich (Inn at Huntingfield, Java, Sweet Cheeks), Cindy Genter (Rock Hall Properties), Steve Leonard (American & RHVFC), Beth Dunn (MSRH), Carol Britten (Town of Rock Hall Website), Steve Atkinson (ShoretobeFun.com), , Joe Musike (Experience Sail), Rose Osborn (KC E&TD), Kim Porter (PBKC), Laurie Walters (MSRH), Sandy Scott (Hickory Stick), Deborah Reese (Cinnamon by the Bay), Matt Melniek (Mainstay), Jamie Williams (KC T&ED), Susan Barnhart (Peoples Bank), Stephanie Chevalier (Chevalier Musique), Heather Ransom (RHYCSS), Kevin Hodge (Blue Heron Oyster Bar)

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 9:01. Attendees introduced themselves.

GRHBA Report:

- Financials & Budget: Jim Rich reported checking account balance was \$51,381.
- Advertising: Spring ads for Rock Hall are running in Attraction, Bay to Beach and Shore Magazine.
- Deborah said a manual lock has been installed. The Visitors Center is open every day. Drop off brochures for your business.
- The new GRHBA banner was displayed. Great job by BayCraft Printing.
- Suzanne announced Kevin Hodge and Marta Kumer will join Deborah Reese as GRHBA Board Members.

Main Street Rock Hall (MSRH): Old Salt's restoration will be complete soon. Unveiling will be Thursday June 22 at 6:00pm with a tribute to Rock Hall Watermen. All are welcome. The 2023 Community Legacy Grant's Building Improvement projects are underway. Two have been completed and submitted for reimbursement. 2024 DHCD and Community Legacy grant applications are being prepared and submitted. 6/19 is next Pirates & Wenches meeting at Java Rock. Next MSRH meeting is 6/15 at 9:00 at the Mainstay. MSRH will be sending a letter to the town opposing the location of a new town office building in our commercial Main Street District.

Tourism & Economic Development: Jamie reported Chesapeake College has trades programs focused on manufacturing, marine and culinary fields to support local businesses. June 13 at 10:00am is a public hearing on a proposed zoning text amendment to allow building heights to 60 ft . (currently 45 ft) in the Industrial and Employment Center zoned properties in the Rt. 301 growth corridor. Businesses looking to locate there need the additional height for their buildings. Businesses should send letters of support to the Kent County Commissioners and/or attend the meeting. Kent County is raising taxes 1% and needs to bring in new residents (and jobs) to increase our revenues so we don't need to keep raising taxes. Shalyn is hosting the Destination Maryland Marketing Assn. meeting on June 3 in Rock Hall at the Ark & Dove at Haven Harbour South.

Town of Rock Hall: Carol Britten reminded businesses to send events info to her for posting on the town's website.

Rock Hall Comp Plan: Cindy Genter attends RH Planning Commission meetings where the RH Comp Plan is being reviewed. She sent a letter (on behalf of the GRHBA) to the Planning Commission to expand the permitted uses in the harbor zoning district to include restaurants, lodging and retail. A draft of the Comp Plan was presented at the May 10 Planning Commission meeting.

Member Events & Comments

- Lions Club: will have a Raffle for a basket of crabs & corn. Drawing is July 4th. Buy raffle tickets at Crickets, Stuff & Selkie.
- Rock Hall Yacht Club Sailing School: this is their 20th anniversary. Sailabration event will be 7/22. Donations needed for silent auction and fund raising.
- Mainstay: Delmarva Singer/Songwriter Association's first meeting will be 6/6. The Mainstay's bar is open Thursdays 4-8:30.
- Blue Heron Oyster Bar proposed a parking addition on their property two months ago that would cost them \$10,000. Town recently responded they required additional environmental work on the project that would cost \$30,000.
- Selkie Books has Crisfield poet Pat Valdata coming 6/24, and Easton author Joseph Koper coming 7/30. Selkie will have a booth at P&W showcasing local artists and authors.
- RHVFC has many volunteers ready to work at this weekend's Triathlon
- Shuttle transported three times the number of people this Memorial Day vs. 2022! Thank you Delmara Craft!!

General Comments:

- *We need a marina business member to attend our meetings and provide feedback on this important Rock Hall industry.*
- *Visitor comments on Memorial Day – too many of the businesses on Main Street were closed on Sunday*
- *Business comments on Memorial Day – Sunday was the highest revenue day of the weekend. Lots of people from Tea Party.*

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24. The next meeting will be June 27th at the Fire House at 9:00am.

Cindy Genter, GRHBA Secretary