

Minutes from the January 30, 2024 GRHBA Meeting:

Attendees: Suzanne Einstein (Blue Crab Chesapeake Charters), Cindy Genter (Rock Hall Properties), Sarah Ulrick (Rock Hall Properties), Eve Heath (RH American Legion), Steve Leonard (American RH Service Center), Laurie Walters (MSRH), Beth Dunn (MSRH), Patti Williams (RHYC), Kevin Hodge (Blue Heron Oyster House), Joe Musike (Experience Sail), Deborah Reese (Cinnamon by the Bay & STUFF), Debra Woodruff-Capper (Lions Club), Roni Thomas (PBKC) & Susan Barnhardt (Peoples Bank & Affordable Appliance Repair), Katie Wright (KC E&TD), Matt Mielnick (Mainstay), Sarah King (KC Chamber of Commerce), Marta Kumer & Kelly Crouse (Selkie Books), Robin Hawthorne (Hightide & Grammy's Goodies), Chris Golder (Flying Decoy Bar & Grill), Donna Walls (Harbor Shack).

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 9:00. Attendees introduced themselves. Suzanne asked members to keep Tiffany Hague (Grammy's Goodies) in our thoughts and prayers. Robin Hawthorne gave an update on Tiffany. Peoples Bank has set up an account for donations.

GRHBA Report:

- GRHBA Board Meeting was held January 16, 2024. Minutes will be distributed to all members.
- Financials: December P&L and Balance Sheet & 2023 P&L were distributed. There will be a slight profit for 2023.
- Visitors Center: Deborah Reese will order a new open sign. The VC is open weekends now; full time in April. Members should bring business cards, rack cards and brochures.
- Rock Hall Brochure: Final edits were approved 1/30/24. Printed maps due mid February. Copies from town office or Rock Hall Properties porch. Cindy will send an email when available for pick up.
- Rock Hall Shuttle: Jamie Williams is investigating DCT help for 2024 season. Transportation Committee Members took a trip to Havre de Grace to meet their shuttle manager. Laurie Walters & Eve Heath reported Havre de Grace bought eight 12-person electric low speed vehicles (LSVs) @ \$32,000 each. They employ 10 drivers @ \$18/hr and operate weekends April-December. Each vehicle runs for 2 hours before recharging. There is no charge to ride their shuttle. The population of Havre de Grace is about 14,000; the town funds the shuttles.

Main Street Rock Hall (MSRH): MSRH will have a networking event on March 28 and a social media event in April for MSRH business & property owners, funded by a \$10,000 MIP Grant. Two people will attend the Main Street America Conference in May. Information for the Building Improvement Grant will be sent out early February with applications due in March. \$50,000 grant funds are available to our Main Street businesses. Porch Fest is May 26.

Tourism & Economic Development: Upper Shore Regional Council is developing a mentoring program. Aaron Bramble is off the KC Economic Development & Tourism Board; he is on the Rock Hall Economic Development Committee. Dick Story is ED&T Board chair. Applications are open for the Micro Ag Grant. See the website for details.

Kent County Chamber of Commerce: The Chamber recently completed strategic planning. 2024 Maps and Directories are available and were distributed. Golf Tournament in June. Workforce Apprenticeship program 1/30/24. March 15 is the College & Career Fair. Businesses can set up a table. Contact Sarah for details. Chamber has restructured dues.

Town of Rock Hall: The Planning Commission will have a final review of the Comp Plan at their Feb. 14 meeting; it will be sent to Mayor & Council for approval. The town's Economic Development Committee will focus on Housing, Workforce Development and Business Development.

Member Events & Comments

- Harbor Shack will open in early March.
- Flying Decoy plans to be open for lunch & dinner 7 days a week starting late February.
- Peoples Bank has a new teller & an opening for another. Call Susan Barnhardt for loan info.
- Blue Heron is closed until March 1.
- Hightide will open in April.
- Selkie Books gave handouts for their many events and activities. Mardi Gras and Valentines Day events are planned. Look for info on the "Magic Carpet Room" for kids to come. Check their Facebook page for details.
- American Legion has food on Fridays and a Valentines Dance Feb. 10, 7-11pm.

- RH Lions: Marine Tech Scholarships are available. Circus is 5/24. Macular Degeneration awareness program.
- Mainstay concert series starts in February with 2/9 Deanna Bogart concert. More community focus programs. 3/7 bus to Phila. Flower Show.
- Patti Williams said the Angel Tree Program served 87 families! Muskrat Cookoff is 2/3 at Maggies. Rock Hall Yacht Club is open to the public Fridays in February. RHYC Car Show is Sept. 14. Rock Hall Parks & Rec is organizing 4th of July activities. Vendors and volunteers wanted.

Thanks to all the members who attended this meeting. It was a great turnout!

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18. The next meeting will be February 27, 2024 at the Fire House at 9:00am.

Cindy Genther, GRHBA Secretary