



**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**July 22, 2021 7:30 a.m.**  
**VIA Zoom**

**Board attendees:** Nikhil Biljani, Angela Chaney, Dale Cyr, Rob DiSpirito, Marji Graf, Jennifer Hester, Bei Ma, Dan Mallon, Carla Merritt, Bridget Donnell Newton, Suzanne Osborn, Susan Prince, Nancy Regelin, Morgan Sullivan, and Bill Tompkins

**Absent:** Ahmed Ali, Richard Alvarez, Becky Briggs, Angela Chaney, Kimberly Kelley, and Todd Pearson

**Other attendees:**

**Staff:** Cindy Rivarde, Richelle Wilson, Morgan Wortham, Rachele Williams, Thomas Squire,

**Others:** Manish Tewari (City of Rockville), Cory Van Horn and Kelly Groff (Visit Montgomery), Rhonda Devan (Vault Consulting), Ken Sonner (Resident)

**1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Remarks**

- a. Ms. Prince called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m. and noted that a vote is needed to extend the Board terms for Becky Briggs and Dale Cyr for one additional year. **ACTION: Marji Graf moved to extend the terms for Becky Briggs and Dale Cyr for one additional year and Angela Chaney seconded. The motion passed unanimously with Dale Cyr abstaining. Ms. Briggs was not present.**

**2. Operational Items**

- a. Approval of Minutes  
Ms. Prince noted a typographical error for the word “willingness”, and Ms. Rivarde said she would make the correction. **ACTION: Dale Cyr moved to accept minutes for June 23rd, 2021 as corrected, and Nancy Reglin seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.**
- b. Treasurer’s Report – Ms. Prince stated REDI is still in search of a Treasurer. Ms. Rivarde acknowledges Rhonda Devan from Vault Consulting is now serving as the CFO for REDI, and in the interim can provide the treasurer comments. Ms. Devan noted that SHS is closing out the fiscal year, and Vault will handle the audit with Snyder Cohen. Ms. Devan is also reviewing the budget and application of the PPP funds, which will be brought back to the Board at the September meeting. Ms. Devan reviewed the May financials and stated REDI is in a strong cash position. Vault found that the balances in Quick Books did not align with REDI’s FY 2021, and they are correcting. Vault submitted the April grant report to SBA for the CARES Act funding, and we anticipate carrying over more funds into the new year than originally anticipated.

### 3. CEO Report

#### a. Economic Development:

1) Rock East District - Ms. Rivarde stated that the Mayor & Council officially designated the Rock East District area at their meeting last Monday. This is the first commercial district identified for placemaking and for highlighting local tourism offerings. The launch of the district is scheduled with a series of events from September 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>; that will include:

- Thursday - media and real estate familiarization tours/events
- Friday – a bike ride organized by The Rockville Bicycle Action Committee (RBAC).
- Saturday – a ribbon cutting at True Respite organized with Ms. Graf of the Chamber
- Saturday – a maker’s market at the True Respite location that will highlight some of the Shop Local vendors and other local makers, as well as have a kid maker activity.
- Sunday – possibly a run, yoga, or other wellness/exercise activity.

GKA is working on the banners that we want to be hung by City staff at the end of August. Thank you to Mr. DiSpirito and his staff for all their support and assistance.

2) Business and Site Selector Surveys RFP. Ms. Wilson noted that the RFP has issued. It is expected that the review committee will select 3-4 of the top proposers for interviews, and then make a final selection.

b. Tourism and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Visit Montgomery: Cory Van Horn and Kelly Groff from Visit Montgomery provided a presentation outlining the capabilities of Visit Montgomery, a non-profit organization promoting tourism and hospitality for the County, proposing an initial two year partnership with REDI in which Visit Montgomery would develop a local tourism website for REDI that would highlight Rockville businesses and attractions, including the Rock East District. This would be a cost to REDI of \$24,000 in the first year and \$20,000 in the second. A copy of the PowerPoint was sent to the Board. **ACTION: Nancy Regelin made a motion to enter into an MOU with Visit Montgomery for two years with an option to terminate after one year. Jennifer Hester seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

#### c. MWBC:

Ms. Wortham is working closely with Ms. Devan to figure out the budget amendment for the CARES ACT grant agreement. We were awarded \$420,000 and spent about half in the first year. The SBA has now extended our grant period for an additional year, until the end of April 2022. When Vault presents budget revisions in September, they will reflect this grant extension in addition to the PPP funding. Ms, Rivarde noted that REDI’s income is more than enough to

cover anticipated expenses for FY2022 without any change of programming. In 2023 we will look at the need for additional funding to continue the enhanced programming we have developed with the CARES Act dollars.

**4. Presentations**

No additional presentations.

**5. Strategic Items**

- a. Workforce Education Committee – No report was given.

**6. Brief Partner Updates:**

- a. The City of Rockville -

Mayor Bridget Newton: The last mayor-council meeting is on August 2nd, 2021 before recess until September 13th, 2021. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the City anticipates approving the 2040 master plan. Other significant projects involved the annexation of the King Buick site, and they made a project presentation at the last meeting that may be of interest. In September, Rockville again goes purple with Opioid Awareness. The City will also hold a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 ceremony. The City report with additional details is in the Board packet.

Rob DiSpirito also mentioned that in September, Mayor & Council will be discussing and reviewing the WMATA Rockville Metro Station study concepts and designs following input from the community. Rezoning north and south Stonestreet and public hearings and action will be scheduled this fall. The City is happy to partner with Vistarts this September at the Rockville Arts Festival in the Town Square on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. 11 am to 5 pm.

- b. MCEDC

Bill Tompkins: MCEDC is working diligently to grow the Life Sciences sector. They met recently with Pfizer, which is looking to expand. MCEDC is also working with County Council committees to look at tech transfer and housing issues. MCEDC is focusing on small business assistance, especially minority-owned businesses. They are proud to be a supporter and partner with the MWBC program and may want to expand their support. A consultant who studied the County incubators will be presenting to the Fed Committee. The County is anticipating consolidation of their real estate usage by about 20%, and they have moved out of 255 Hungerford.

- c. Maryland Department of Commerce – Carla Merritt

Ms. Merritt noted that Maryland economic developer Rhonda Ray passed.

- d. Rockville Chamber of Commerce – Marji Graf

Ms. Graf noted the upcoming Ribbon Cutting ceremonies and events through the forthcoming months and encouraged everyone to review the Chamber's schedule of events on their website. In addition, every Friday, she has been going out to

meet local businesses throughout the Rockville areas along with Chamber leaders and Ms. Wilson. She highlighted the upcoming leadercast, golf tournament, public safety awards, and state of the City, and encouraged the Board to attend and support.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

- Executive Committee Meeting** .....No August Meeting
- Executive Committee Meeting** .....Tuesday, September 14th,  
4:30 pm
- Finance Committee Meeting** .....Tuesday, September 14th,  
5:30 p,
- REDI Board Meeting** .....No August Meeting
- Rockville Chamber Leadercast** .....Wednesday, August 11th
- Rockville Chamber Golf Event** .....Monday, August 16th, 7:30  
am
- Rockville Chamber Public Safety Awards** .....Wednesday, September 8th,  
11:30 am Lakewood Country  
Club
- Rockville Chamber State of the City** .....Friday, September 17th, 9:00  
am, Glenview Mansion
- REDI Board Meeting** .....Thursday, September 23rd,  
7:30 am