



**REDI Board of Directors Meeting  
MINUTES  
November 17, 2022, 7:30 a.m.**

**Hybrid Zoom/In Person Meeting  
51 Monroe Street, PE20, Rockville, MD 20850 and**

**Board attendees virtual:** Richard Alvarez, Ben Anstrom, Nikhil Bijlani, Angela Chaney, Rob DiSpirito, Marji Graf, Alton Henley, Bei Ma, Dan Mallon, Carla Merritt, Suzanne Osborn, Nancy Regelin, Michael Scott, Justin Yang

**Board attendees in person:** LaVonne Torrence Berner, Susan Prince, Cliff Veirs

**Absent Board Members:** Bridget Newton, Todd Pearson, Morgan Sullivan, Bill Tompkins

**Other in person attendees:**

Staff: Cindy Rivarde, Richelle Wilson, Danette Nguyen, Amanda Bosland,

**Other Virtual attendees:**

Nancy Pickard (Peerless Rockville), Karen Kalantzis (MWBC)

- 1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Remarks – Susan Prince**
  - a. Susan Prince called the meeting to order at 7:31 am
  - b. Ms. Prince introduced Danette Nguyen, the new MWBC Managing Director
  - c. The Celebration of REDI’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and holiday party will be December 7<sup>th</sup> at Glenview Mansion
  - d. No Board meeting in December
  - e. The Board and Staff will be receiving the conflict-of-interest form that needs to be returned by the end of the year
  
- 2. Operational Items**
  - a. Approval of Minutes (October) – Susan Prince  
**ACTION: Dan Mallon made a motion to approve the October minutes, which was seconded by Marji Graf and passed unanimously.**
  
  - b. Treasurer’s Report – Todd Pearson/Cindy Rivarde
    - i. Mr. Pearson and Ms. Devan were not able to attend the meeting. Ms. Rivarde noted no significant changes in the financials and that REDI is on track for the year.
    - ii. The SBA FY19 Audit is still pending a response from the SBA

### 3. CEO Report

#### a. Economic Development – Cindy Rivarde/Richelle Wilson

- i. Ms. Wilson noted the last focus group for the business survey consultant was held, and that they finalize the report for January’s Board Meeting at which they will give a presentation.
- ii. Ms. Rivarde noted that the Guatemalan Consulate opened on Rollins Avenue in Rockville and had a ribbon cutting with numerous dignitaries. We look forward to working with the consulate for business and cultural enhancement and exchange.

#### b. MWBC – Cindy Rivarde/Susan Prince

- i. Ms. Prince noted that the ribbon cutting at Bowie State with Senator Ben Cardin, SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman, and Bowie State President Aminta Breaux was a great success and she complimented staff, especially Angie Duncanson, on the arrangements.
- ii. Ms. Prince also commended staff on a wonderful evening at the transformed REDI office thanking the MWBC funders and clients. The event was well attended, and a video was presented that has been sent to the Board. The video will be used for social media posts as well. The office is currently transformed into an art gallery with an art exhibit curated by The Art Connection in the Capital Region. Area non-profits will be able to come in the next few months to select artwork.

### 4. Presentation

- The Value of Historic Preservation – Nancy Pickard

Ms. Pickard is the Executive Director of Peerless Rockville, Rockville’s historic preservation organization. Like REDI, it is a separate non-profit with its own board of directors. Peerless was created in 1974 after urban renewal destroyed the organically developed downtown. As a result of citizen efforts, some Victorian housing, the 1891 Red Brick Courthouse, the B & O Station, and St. Mary’s were preserved. Ms. Pickard also highlighted the Wire Hardware Building at 22 Baltimore Road, that is currently vacant. She noted that the Dr. Frieda Fromm-Reichmann Cottage is designated as a National Historic Landmark. Dr. Fromm-Reichmann pioneered in the discipline of psychotherapy. She went on to discuss the purpose of historic preservation to protect a shared heritage, the unique identity of an area and sense of place. Rockville has its own historic district commission that looks at historic designation. Properties eligible for historic designation should be significant – and it is the exterior that is preserved. The Board discussed the importance of heritage tourism. Ms. Pickard thanked REDI for the Small Business Impact Fund grant that they are using to create a new website. The presentation slides will be circulated to the Board.

### 5. Strategic Items

#### a. Incentive Review Committee – Dan Mallon

The Committee will be meeting in early December

- b. Marketing Committee - Bei Ma/Amanda Bosland  
The Committee will be meeting in December. Ms. Ma noted that Mr. Scott had a great idea about a seasonal health and wellness schedule that they would like to incorporate.
- c. MWBC Advisory Board – Nancy Regelin  
The top news is onboarding of Danette Nguyen.

**6. Brief Partner Updates:**

- a. Rockville Chamber of Commerce – Marji Graf  
Ms. Graf noted the Chamber Holiday party will be December 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 at the Hilton. Mr. Anstrom mentioned he is participating on the Young Professionals Group of the Chamber, and Mr. Viers will connect with him. The Chamber is again supporting shop small for the holidays.
- b. The City of Rockville – Rob DiSpirito  
Mr. DiSpirito noted that Mayor and Council recently discussed Town Square policies and priorities with regard to the agreements with Morguard. The City is working with historic preservation to develop a work plan and inventory list. There was also a Rockville Housing Enterprises item to preserve 121 units at the Scarborough Square Townhomes and Apartments. October 24-28 was proclaimed to be Economic Development Week, and Ms. Prince accepted the Proclamation for REDI.
- c. MCEDC – Bill Tompkins  
Mr. Tompkins was not present.
- d. Maryland Department of Commerce – Carla Merritt  
Ms. Merritt had to leave the meeting prior to her report.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

<b>REDI 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Holiday Party</b> .....	December 7, evening, Glenview Mansion
<b>Chamber Holiday Party</b> .....	December 15, 5:30 p.m. Hilton
<b>Incentive Review Committee</b> .....	TBD December
<b>Marketing Committee</b> .....	TBC December
<b>MWBC Advisory Board</b> .....	TBD
<b>Executive Committee Meeting</b> .....	January 10th, 4:30 p.m.
<b>Finance Committee Meeting</b> .....	January 10th, 5:30 p.m.
<b>Board Meeting</b> .....	January 26, 7:30 a.m.