



**ROCKVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

March 14, 2023, 4:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting – REDI office and Webex

Committee Attendees: Susan Prince, Todd Pearson, Bridget Donnell Newton, Nancy Regelin

Staff: Cindy Rivarde, Danette Nguyen, Richelle Wilson

1. CEO

- a. Ms. Rivarde reported that the two county placemaking grants for \$200,000 each for a second shop local incubator in Wheaton and development of a business association in Rock East were submitted. In addition, Ms. Nguyen submitted a grant to the Minority Business Development Agency for \$2 million to expand Shop Local as well as to incorporate makers events and online selling capabilities.
- b. Ms. Rivarde reported that REDI is hiring Ilana Preuss from Recast City for just under \$1,000 to review Rock East and provide a report on opportunities that could be pursued. Ms. Preuss is an expert in makers districts and small scale manufacturing and was recommended by Dave Gottesman at the City.
- c. Ms. Nguyen went over the recent childcare training agreements that include The Family Tree (\$24,240), the Abilities Network (\$11,250), and Family Child Care Alliance (up to \$42,100 – pending finalization). MWBC has been successful in expanding its training program across the state and bringing in some additional funding.
- d. Ms. Rivarde noted that the Visit Montgomery 2-year MOU is coming up for renewal. She requested that Ms. Prince assist with setting goals for the future work.
- e. Staff is working with the Rockville Rewards consultants to put together a Restaurant Week Campaign that will utilize digital coupons developed by Rockville Rewards. The campaign will be the first week in June, with a kickoff at Hometown Holidays.
- f. The International Bio show is June 5-8. Ms. Wilson is convening the new Bio Committee to discuss and will be making arrangements.

2. Board Business

- a. Ms. Prince, Ms. Newton, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Rivarde met with County Councilmembers Friedson, Glass, Sayles, Balcome and Fani Gonzalez, focusing on the Economic Development Committee members. The Committee requested that REDI continue to meet with all the remaining County Council members.
- b. Ms. Rivarde reported that Dan Mallon will be moving to Indiana but continuing to work at Ellume. He would like to remain on the Bio Committee. It seems like a transition of his Board seat at the time Board Terms are submitted to the City in the fall would be ideal. The Committee also discussed bringing on a second Vice Chair to the Executive Committee, and that Bei Ma is interested. Ms. Rivarde will review the By-Laws to figure out next steps.
- c. The Committee reviewed the draft agenda for March.
- d. The Board retreat has been scheduled for April 29th and will be at Shulman Rogers. Secretary of State Lee will be the speaker. The Committee mentioned that the Board retreat report should be sent to County Councilmembers afterwards.
- e. Mr. Pearson will plan to have a board get together at his home when the weather becomes warmer.

3. Other Business

- a. The Committee discussed the impending sale of 255 Rockville Pike.
- b. Josh Nolan from Morguard was in town and met with Ms. Rivarde, Ms. Wilson, the City Manager and Ms. Prince. Morguard has a lot of ideas for events to engage the community, as well as a proposal for a rooftop dog experience (the Woof Top).
- c. The City and REDI also met with Dr. Williams, the President of Montgomery College to establish a stronger relationship. There will be a follow up meeting with Dr. Benjamin, who has succeeded to Kim Kelley's role.
- d. Ms. Rivarde noted new staff members Yesenia Cruz and Zeinna Estrada coming on board in the Administrative Coordinator and Training and Events Coordinator positions respectively.

Next Meeting April 11, 2022, 4:30 p.m., Hybrid/Zoom.