



ROCKVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 9, 2024, 4:30 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting – REDI office and Zoom

Committee Attendees: Susan Prince, Bei Ma, Nancy Regelin

Absent: Monique Ashton, Todd Pearson

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

1. CEO

a. General

- i. Retreat - The committee reviewed the draft agenda and break out session. It was noted that staff will prepare a background on clean tech to circulate prior to the retreat, and will be prepared to make remarks on bio/life science and clean tech at the retreat. Ilana Preuss of Recast Cities is confirmed as the speaker to talk about small scale manufacturing. The discussion at the retreat will focus on the industry section while her presentation on April 18th will be more geographically focused on Rock East.

b. Economic Development

- i. Rock East Report – the report has been finalized, and Recast Cities will present to elected officials, key staff and businesses on April 18th at the Rev Room. The Board is invited.
- ii. Life Science Branding – we are in the naming stage, and Medium Giant is setting up one on one meetings with venture capitalists, real estate developers, and other stakeholders to get input that is not affected by group think. .
- iii. Global Bites – the Global Bites Fest event will be held June 22 at Town Square in partnership with Morguard. We anticipate food offerings, booths, and cultural programming. REDI will be selling the Rockville Rewards access at the event, which can be used as the dining passport. This will follow with 2 weeks of dining events and deals around the city.
- iv. Maxim Bio Tour – Ms. Wilson reported that staff took the Mayor on a business visit for Maxim Bio. The Mayor has requested regular business visits focusing on bio/life science companies.

c. MWBC

- i. Training for Veterans –MWBC is again partnering with Old Dominion University (ODU) on programming for women veterans. This includes pursuing an opened opportunity to request additional SBA funding. ODU has also received a second WBC location, and will be faced with similar operation and reporting challenges as MWBC.
- ii. Shop Local Updates – Unfortunately, the Third is closing prior to the end of the pilot cohort in Howard County. However, MWBC is securing a 2-year opportunity at Savage Mill and a second location in Old Ellicott City. The cohort members at the Thirds will have a right of first refusal to join one of the other cohorts, as they did not get to complete the full program. Ms. Nguyen and Ms. Rivarde met with Jennifer Jones of HCEDC and stressed the need to fund a full-time position in Howard County to provide counseling and oversee the two shop local locations. Ms. Nguyen is following up with the Special Secretary Maria Menendez who is providing the Old Ellicott City location and has agreed to make a request of the state for some funding. Adding a shop local in the

City of Bowie would depend on Bowie funding the cost of the location and a staff position. We have not yet been in talks with Frederick for a shop local incubator, instead we are focusing on the creative micro grant program there.

2. Board Business

- a. It was noted that Morgan Sullivan expressed a desire to contact CJ Overly of Boston Properties to determine if he might be interested in joining the board.

3. Other Business

- a. None.

4. **Next Meeting** June 11, 2024, 4:30 p.m., Hybrid/Zoom.