



ROCKVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 11, 2025, 4:30 p.m.

Hybrid

Committee Attendees: Nancy Regelin, Bei Ma, Susan Prince, Monique Ashton

Absent: Todd Pearson

Staff: Cindy Rivarde, Amanda Bosland, Richelle Wilson, Karen Sippel

1. CEO Report.

a. General

- i. Retreat Topics– Ms. Rivarde went over a proposed retreat agenda that looked at key industry sectors for break out topics. It was noted that it is a time to “pivot” and that could be incorporated into the overall theme. It was also noted that one of our greatest assets is the talented workforce, and with federal layoffs and impact on federal contractors, we should address the need to retain the workforce. A suggestion of targeting companies to set up satellite office to take advantage of talent was made. Many of the job seekers are high level – not entry level. There was also an inquiry as to what incentives might attract employers – like tax breaks. Lack of venture capital funds continues to be a pain point.

Staff was asked to discuss how our efforts can align with the new State Economic Development Strategic Plan, as well as the County/MCEDC Strategic Plans. Staff will try to get a member of the Department of Commerce to speak.

MWBC will convene its Advisory Board to work more granularly, and bring this back to the full Board outside of the retreat. It is time for a future direction for MWBC.

b. Economic Development

- i. Branding Project – the landing page has been developed, and content is being finalized. Medium Giant has provided additional stock photos for the campaign.
- ii. Small Scale Manufacturing Cohort – Ms. Wilson is working on development of the second cohort for small-scale manufacturing.

c. MWBC

- i. Shop Local Update – The Savage Mill cohort has been filled. The Bowie location is still being improved and signage is in process. It is anticipated that training may start prior to access to the space. Staff is putting the cohort members together, and has several participants from the Ellicott City cohort interested.
- ii. Curriculum Update - MWBC is hoping to contract with 37 Oaks to provide immediate curriculum needs for shop local. Staff will develop MWBC curriculum as required by the Montgomery County grant.

2. Board Business

- a. Draft BOD Agenda – Staff is trying to get representatives from the Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator (MEIA) to speak.

3. Other Business

- a. The Mayor noted that the expedited permitting program has been reinstated. She also mentioned that there are enhancements in the proposed city budget to add additional inspection staff.
- b. Ms. Rivarde noted that Angela Chaney has recommended another tax accountant from Aprio to replace her place on the Board – Robert Hall. When he sends his resume in, Ms. Rivarde will forward it to the Nominating Committee.

Next Meeting, April 8, 2025