



ROCKVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 8, 2025, 4:30 p.m.

Hybrid

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

Absent: None

Staff: Cindy Rivarde, Amanda Bosland, Richelle Wilson, Karen Sippel, Rhonda Devan, Rochen Blaaw (Devan)

1. CEO Report.

a. General

- i. Retreat Revised Draft Agenda– Ms. Regelin noted that it would be preferred to have a deeper dive into the conversation about ensuring that REDI is nimble and responsive in this unprecedented time – and that participants come away feeling energized about how to continue to have a positive impact on Rockville’s business community and economy. It was noted that while there are a lot of challenges – there are a lot of baseline assets that remain. Ms. Rivarde will revise the draft agenda and work with Ms. Regelin to finalize.
- ii. Record Keeping Requirements – Ms. Rivarde informed the Committee that the State Archivist has indicated that she believes REDI should comply with State record keeping rules for governments. Ms. Rivarde is working with counsel and also obtaining quotes from consultants who can assist with making this transition. The first quote received was \$16,000.

b. Economic Development

- i. Branding Project – the landing page has been developed, and content is being finalized and will be ready for bio. Staff has already uploaded the Bio Tech Corridor brand to the partnering system.
- ii. Small Scale Manufacturing Cohort – Ms. Wilson has made progress in filling the next cohort, especially with leads gained from the Moco Eats event. The cohort will launch May 15 and go through August 1. Cohort businesses represent many food and beverage concepts, but there is a mix of products.

c. MWBC

- i. Shop Local Update – Bowie has filled the cohort with 12 vendors. The cohort will start training next week, and the physical store target opening date is May 1. The cohort will continue through December 31. The Savage Mill and Rockville cohorts are full and have been operating. Sales are strong for some members. They will also go through December 31. The Frederick pop-up is planned for summer, and staff is working on and agreement with a potential licensor.
- ii. Curriculum Update - Ms. Sippel is working on developing the in-house retail curriculum, which will be delivered online. Montgomery County continues to be interested in REDI completing this curriculum. Ms. Sippel is discussing development of a Childcare incubator curriculum for Howard County. Ms. Sippel is also developing a concept for a series of one day boot camps for those who want to become entrepreneurs or that need assistance in moving past a hurdle.
- iii. Funding Update – Ms. Sippel is confirming funding with our partners, including Howard County, Frederick County, and Montgomery County. The City of Frederick may provide some funding in this fiscal year (\$10,000). Ms. Sippel and Ms. Rivarde plan to meet with the City of Bowie soon. Their understanding is that the budget allocates funding to the Economic Development department, which then has the authority to distribute funds for things like the shop local program.

2. Board Business

- a. Draft BOD Agenda – The planning department will present recent updates to the Board at the June meeting. The Mayor suggested that staff try to find a speaker from the robotics, aerospace or AI industry for May.

3. Other Business

- a. Ms. Rivarde noted that City Hall appears to have changed operating hours to 8:30 – 5. The Committee had consensus that REDI should change it's official operating hours to match.
- b. Mr. Pearson noted that Wegman's will open officially on June 25th. Wegman's will be bringing 400 new jobs to Rockville. Their team is amazing and has already make efforts to connect to the community and local nonprofits. All built commercial space at Twinbrook Quarter has been leased with the exception of one bay. The MPDU's are also filling up. A three-bedroom unit remains.

Next Meeting, May 13, 2025