



ROCKVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 2, 2025, 4:30 p.m.

Hybrid

Committee Attendees: In person: Nancy Regelin, Susan Prince. Virtual: Bei Ma, Dan Mallon, Monique Ashton

Absent: Todd Pearson

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

1. CEO Report.

a. General

- i. Annual Report– The annual report for FY25 was circulated to the Board and Mayor and Council.
- ii. Mayor and Council Workshop – The July workshop has been rescheduled to 9/15/25. Committee members are requested to review the agenda packet online as well as the Annual Report. REDI will not give a presentation – but will be available for questions.

b. Economic Development

- i. Business Survey– Ms. Wilson is preparing an RFP for a second business survey that will be conducted over the next 2 years. Funding for a portion related to small-scale manufacturing will come from the current County placemaking grant. Funding will be split over two fiscal years.
- ii. Rock East – the new cohort will start in October, which is funded by the County placemaking grant. 37 Oaks, which was designated as a sole source vendor by the Board, will be hired to run the cohort.
- iii. Bio Committee – the next dinner in partnership with Thermo Fischer is scheduled for October 9, and will focus on private funding sources.
- iv. Contractor – Lynne Benzion has been hired on a contract basis to help with some prospecting from targeted lists as well as bio/life science content for marketing.

c. MWBC

- i. End of year reporting – End of year reporting for non-federal funders is complete, as well as reporting for the BSU/WBC federal grant.

- ii. Displaced Federal Workers and Contractors – Bootcamps in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties were successful. Ms. Sippel is working on a Founders Rising program to continue to support this population and will respond to a Montgomery County RFP that may provide financial support for development and implementation of this program.
- iii. Shop Local – Ms. Sippel is negotiating an agreement with Howard County for a fourth Shop Local in Ellicott City. The funding would provide for an additional FTE to run the two Howard County locations. Ms. Sippel is using funds from Montgomery County to develop retail curriculum, and is requesting funds from Howard County for a consultant to assist with the chain structure, processes and procedures.

d. Marketing

- i. Global Bites recap – Ms. Bosland reported that 170 restaurants were eligible this year. Participants uploaded 109 receipts representing 55 restaurants to enter a gift card raffle and have 20% of their receipt total donated to 2024/25 Rockville Rewards nonprofits. Receipt submissions totaled \$5,900, with \$2,400 – double the donation allocation - disbursed among 10 charities. The funds for the Global Bites campaign and donations came from the Rockville Rewards program.
- ii. Visit Montgomery – Ms. Rivarde noted that the MOU with Visit Montgomery was extended in order to continue Explore Rockville.
- iii. Innovation Book project – Ms. Bosland is leveraging the investment made by TEDCO in a book on innovation in Maryland. The Biotech Corridor brand is highlighted.
- iv. Biotech Corridor Brand – Ms. Regelin and Ms. Rivarde had a meeting with staff from the County Executive’s office and MCEDC to discuss their participating in a licensing arrangement to use the brand. MCEDC is not in a position to make decisions right now, and the County Executive requires any funding to come from the MCEDC budget. Discussions will continue. Ms. Bosland will prepare a presentation for the Board to go over the launch of the brand and next steps.

2. Board Business

- a. Draft BOD Agenda – Two speakers are lined up for the September meeting to talk about X-Energy’s recent innovations and growth as well as USG’s new accelerated Pharmaceutical Science masters program.

3. Other Business

- a. Committee members agreed to move the November 11th meeting for Executive and Finance Committees to November 4th because of the Veterans Day Holiday.

- b. The Mayor noted that she and Councilmember Jackson will be on a mission to sister city Pinnenberg, Germany. She is working with the Sister City program to add an economic exchange component to the relationships.
- c. The Mayor also noted that she and city staff have been meeting with County Councilmembers and staff to extend the County's More Housing Now program to Rockville and Gaithersburg. Councilmember Katz is likely to introduce a bill on this, which would allow developers converting properties to residential to access certain incentives.
- d. Ms. Prince suggested that REDI leverage the recent Incentive awards to do a press release and campaign highlighting the successful impact of the program and the diversity of companies supported.

Next Meeting, October 14, 2025