



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

January 13, 2026, 4:30 p.m.

Hybrid

Committee Attendees: In person: None. Virtual: Nancy Regelin, Bei Ma, Susan Prince Monique Ashton (Liaison)

Absent: Todd Pearson, Dan Mallon

Staff: In Person: Cindy Rivarde, Richelle Wilson, Amanda Bosland. Virtual: Karen Sippel, Rhonda Devan

1. CEO Report.

a. General

- i. CEO Performance – Ms. Rivarde went over her 2025 accomplishments and noted they would be presented to the full Board. One of the Board’s key duties is oversight of the CEO.
- ii. Mayor and Council Presentation 2/9/26 – Ms. Rivarde noted that the presentation would track REDI accomplishments for the first half of the year as well as spending. Staff will have materials to the City soon, and the presentation will discuss response to the changing federal landscape. The materials will also include an update of Ms. Wilson’s data report on the impact of federal changes that was issued in the summer. It was noted that references to jobs lost should be clear as to the source, geographic location represented (city/county), and whether they are solely federal jobs or also federal contracting jobs.
- iii. Fundraising Feasibility Study Update – Twelve proposals were received, and the review committee chose three finalists to give presentations at the end of the week. The goal will be to get a firm under contract quickly so they can present findings at the Board retreat April 25.

b. Economic Development

- i. Small Scale Manufacturing Update– Ms. Wilson noted that the cohort is finishing up and a graduation will be scheduled soon.
- ii. Business Visits - Ms. Wilson noted a recent visit to BAE, and that the outside consultant assisting with setting up meetings for retention as well as vetting list for prospecting has been helping with workload. Ms. Rivarde noted that the Comptroller’s office is planning a state-wide business survey, and that it would be good for REDI to coordinate its upcoming plans for a survey. The Mayor mentioned that the Comptroller is also opening a location in King Farm, which will be a great

resource for businesses. REDI followed up after the MesoScale visit resulting in their application for the expansion grant.

c. MWBC

- i. Shop Local Update – the Savage Mill location will be closing at the end of January as the Landlord has found a rent paying tenant for the space. Two of the remaining cohort members are looking at taking their own in line space at Savage Mill, and the third may join the cohort in Bowie. The Rockville location was renewed for a six month period through June, and the Landlord is actively marketing the space to find a market rent paying tenant. The coffee vendor in Bowie is relocating to the Rockville location, and Ms. Sippel will confirm with the Landlord that there are no issues with providing coffee samples. The revised curriculum continues to be developed.
- ii. Founders Rising Update – The first cohort is just about half way through the program, and cohort members seem to be finding the programming helpful, and they are working with each other outside of the sessions. A formal survey will be done at the end of the pilot.

d. Marketing

- i. Melissa Goodier – Melissa Goodier was hired as our new Marketing and Events Manager. Thanks to all who participated in the hiring process.
- ii. Biotech Corridor Website RFP Update – Eleven proposals were received and they have been distributed to a review committee. Ms. Bosland is working to set up the first meeting date for the committee.

2. Board Business

- a. Draft BOD Agenda – SnyderCohen will present the audit at the October Board meeting. Tameka Montgomery will present at the November meeting.

3. Other Business

The Mayor noted:

- She is hearing that there may be another round of federal layoffs.
- The Governor’s proposed Decade Act for 2026 has housing targets higher than those of COG or planned by the city by over 1,000 units.
- The City’s RFP for an Economic Development plan is progressing.
- There will be a joint meeting between the Gaithersburg and Rockville councils which will include a discussion of how to work better together and to discuss differences in policies – in particular focusing on economic development. The Mayor will see if REDI is invited to participate, as Gaithersburg economic development staff will be participating. They are looking at May 11 or June 29, and REDI noted June 29 would be better as they would have had time to pull together the results of the April retreat.
- The Mayor and Council approved the TOD for Rockville Metro Station.

- The Zoning Code Rewrite is progressing – and REDI is putting together an Ad Hoc Committee to give comments. Noted are limitations on Drive Thrus on the Pike
- March 9 will be the next budget hearing
- The Landlord Tenant update will be coming back before Mayor and Council