

St. Mary's County Economic Development Commission
Commissioner's Meeting Room, Chesapeake Bldg.
41770 Baldrige St., Leonardtown, Maryland
Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Curtis Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Attendees: Curtis Brown, vice chair

Silvio Borrero Caldas

Dr. Dale Moore

Gerald Meyerman

Stephanie Cornet

Trisha Post

Lisa Colavito

Leona Charles

Staff: Chris Kaselemis, Katherine Stormont

Absent: Elizabeth Torgerson, Frederick Stewart, Lilyanne Ohanesian, Christine Bergmark, Richard Tarr

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the July 19, 2023 meeting were not available for approval.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Town of Leonardtown – Lashelle McKay, Town Administrator

Leonardtown designated Southern Maryland's only Arts and Entertainment District in 2013 (redesignated in May 2023), Sustainable Communities Redesignation in August 2023, Main Street Maryland Designation in September 2023

Transitions because of COVID have proven to be beneficial to Leonardtown Businesses attracting crowds and additional events of all sizes.

Plans for future development projects include a food hall, amphitheater, hotel & conference center, network of trails, parks, and residential development.

Leonardtown is proud to promote a walkable/bikeable community. There are challenges with crossing state highways such as Route 5.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Announcements from Chris Kaselemis, Director, Department of Economic Development (DED)

Economic Development Week is next week. On Tuesday there will be a Proclamation by Commissioners of St. Mary's County during their scheduled meeting. DED will be highlighting Economic Development Week with daily events

- Monday - Young Professionals Meeting
- Tuesday - State of the County Luncheon
- Wednesday – St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours
- Thursday - Lexington Park Façade Grant Workshop
- Friday - Recognize 5 local businesses to celebrate them and thank them for being a part of the St. Mary's County Business Community.

September was National Manufacturing Month. DED celebrated National Day of Manufacturing with a visit to local manufacturing companies and invite the students from the Forrest Tech Center to join us and see what is happening with these businesses.

State of the County Luncheon – DED has invited members of the Economic Development Commission to attend.

Donna Sasscer, Agriculture Manager, retired on June 30, 2023. After an extensive search, DED is pleased to announce Prissilla Leach will fill this position starting in November. Ms. Leach is a resident of St. Mary's County and owns Anchored Roots Farm where she has a cut flower operation. DED also welcomed Ben Cohen as our Development Facilitator. Mr. Cohen comes to us from our Land Use and Growth Management Department with a background that allows him to help businesses through the development process.

The St. Mary's County Land Use and Growth Management Department has a new director, Jessica Andritz. Jessica comes to us from Charles County, she is a lawyer with expertise in development services.

B. CEDS Update/Progress – Chris Kaselemis, Director, DED

1. Workforce Development and Talent Attraction

- Engagement and participation with Southern Maryland 2030
 - i. Including participation in SPARK Career Fair 2024
- Manufacturing Consortium
 - i. Established consortium and organized workforce meeting specific to manufacturing --- bringing together industry and resource partners in a roundtable discussion
 - ii. Manufacturing Day (October 5, 2023) – student engagement and tours with two local manufacturers
- State of Maryland Blueprint
 - i. Engagement in early implementation discussions
- Ongoing Workforce Partner Engagements and Conversations
 - i. Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (including Workforce Investment Board participation)
 - ii. St. Mary's College of Maryland

1. Regular meetings with Center for Career & Professional Development and Community Affairs departments
 - iii. College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Collaboration and Coordination
 1. Meetings with CSM Leadership
 2. Participation in Community Conversation meeting, led by CSM
 - iv. USMSM
 1. Board of Advisors participation
 2. Ongoing engagement regarding business opportunities for internships and SMART MATRIX utilization opportunities
 - v. PAX Strategic Education Office – regular workforce meetings
 - St. Mary’s Young Professionals – engaged in planning and execution of ~8 events per year
 - i. Data:
 1. Around 40 young professionals at each event
 2. Over 280 engaged individuals
 3. 90 companies with a participating young professional
 - 20 Away Resource Page for Employers
2. Tech Transfer, Development, and Innovation
 - Continued implementation of AeroPark Development District Master Plan
 - International Student Drone Competition – two years in a row and returning June 2024
 - Maryland Economic Development Corporation engagement for AeroPark
 - Collaboration with TechPort (NAWCAD Tech Transfer Office) on SBIR Opportunity Promotion
 - Chesapeake Uncrewed Route Network program
 - NAS PAX Military Installation Resilience Study
 3. Local Agriculture, Seafood, and Forestry
 - Regional Ag Center design and construction
 - Farmers Markets
 - i. Home Grown Market—commissary kitchen buildout and increased weekly market days
 - ii. The Barns at New Market— increasing parking and enhancing septic system. Will fully activate value-added building for direct and consignment sales of local value-added foods, including commercial kitchen for value-added food production.
 - America’s Healthy Food Financing Initiative | Reinvestment Fund (www.investinginfood.com)
 4. Rural Development & Quality of Place
 - Visit St. Mary’s MD
 - i. Craft Beverage Trail

- Lexington Park
 - i. Façade Grant Program – workshop coming up October 26
 - ii. Collaboration with other County Departments to Align Efforts in Lexington Park
 - iii. Property Tax Challenge – one on-going project
 - iv. Support of LexBA & St. Mary’s Community Development Corporation
 - v. Development District Implementation Plan
- Leonardtown
 - i. Arts & Entertainment District Re-designation
 - ii. Main Street Designation
 - iii. Re-Designation on Sustainable Community
 - iv. Strategic Planning for Wharf & Tudor Hall Farm

C. Open Discussion

Each member was given the opportunity to add any information or ask any additional questions.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

7. ADJOURN

Action: Curtis MBrown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Leona Charles and approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by Lisa Ledman, DED.

Approved: January 17, 2024