

**MINUTES
ESSEX COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
April 4, 2024**

A meeting of the Economic Development Authority of Essex County was held on the 4th day of April 2024, with the following present:

Present:

Lisa S. Andrews, Chair
William A. Croxton, Vice-Chairman
Tim Smith – Treasurer
David Holt
Skip Weiss
Ronnie Sidney

Absent:

Jamie Segar

Also present:

Chris Rose – Rappahannock Times
Tommy Blackwell – Public

RE: CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lisa Andrews called the meeting to order. A quorum was met.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Holt made a motion for approval of the March 7, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded.
Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

RE: TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Smith stated that the checking account balance was \$16,702.63. The 12-month CD value was \$15,712.86. Interest to date this fiscal year is \$712.86. The total fund balance is \$32,415.49. On check (uncashed as of the meeting) was written for \$299.00 to Hampton Inn for the Tourism Action Plan meeting for the meeting space. Motion to approve the report was made and seconded. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

RE: GUEST SPEAKER – No Guest this month

RE: OLD BUSINESS

Tourism Initiatives:

Ms. Andrews reported that the meeting on tourism at the Hampton Inn on March 28th was very well attended with a variety of attendees from hospitality, restaurants, lodging, vineyards and even spaces attending as well as several members of the EDA. Laura Messer with the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) facilitated the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis by building on existing information and working with the participants on expanding and elaborating on each category. Ms. Messer will compile the information and provide a report for review and consideration at the next Tourism Strategic Action Plan meeting taking place at the Hampton Inn on April 25th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

In anticipation of the meeting April 25th, the minutes from the March 28th meeting will be forwarded to the BOS and the Town Council and both will be encouraged to have representation at the April 25th meeting. In addition, the EDA will contact/meet with the Planning Commission to ensure that the comprehensive plan can include input from the Tourism Strategic Plan and the overall EDA Strategic Plan.

Mr. Holt will ensure that the 4/25 meeting is posted for the public.

Facade Grant Applications:

None pending.

Historic Downtown Tappahannock (HDT):

Mr. Sidney reported the first Farmer's will be April 20th
HDT is also co-sponsoring "Soul by the River" on May 11th.

EDA Website:

No updates from March. Mr. Holt will discuss the possibility of arranging for EDA member access to the unpublished pages so that we can review, insert and edit the pages.

Board of Supervisors:

No specific report with the BOS meeting being next week.

There was discussion of a community billboard for a calendar of community events. Mr. Croxton has been working on this issue for some time and recently discussed a billboard at the Chamber. The issue was also noted at the tourism meeting on March 28th. Ms. Andrews appointed Mr. Croxton as the lead for a sub-committee of the EDA to address the community calendar communication opportunity.

Chamber of Commerce:

The Chamber will be having a mixer at Bella's restaurant on April 23rd beginning at 5:00???. The public is welcome.

Zoning:

Mr. Smith reported that the department is still focused on the Comprehensive Plan and Planning Commission has interest in working with the EDA.

RE: NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Blackwell noted that Mr. Trent Funkhouser (ED Director – Middlesex) is chairing the regional VA250 committee. The first meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Monday, April 15th at the historic courthouse in Saluda. There will likely be the ability to attend remotely.

RE: NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 9:00AM.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn and seconded. All Ayes

Secretary, David Holt