

## Meeting Agenda

**Date:** February 22, 2022

**Subject:** Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Unless I advise otherwise prior to our meeting we will go back to meeting in person in the Avery County Administrative Building.**

**If you can't attend the meeting, but would like to join by phone please let me ASAP.**

**The meeting will come to order.**

1. Approve and or amend the January 25<sup>th</sup>. Meeting Minutes.
2. **Unfinished Business:**
  - a. Anne Winkleman to an update the Avery County Chamber of Commerce "Business & Tourist Guide".
  - b. Ken Walter wishes to advise that the EDC Charter & Mission Statement are now included on our web site – Thank You to Alex Gavenus at the Avery County Chamber.
  - c. Kate Gavenus to report on New Business Guide Tool Box project.
  - d. Phillip Barrier to report on the progress of the Four County Housing Needs Assessment project.
  - e. Phillip Barrier to report on the Occupancy Tax status?
  - f. Phillip Barrier to report on the American Recovery Plan funds applicable to Avery County & the EDC?
  - g. To do someday - the new Cannon Hospital & Avery County High School videos. [Reminder - the price quoted to do the Community Center video was applicable to doing both the Hospital & High school videos, but due to the budget delay we may need to request an updated quote.]
  - h. Other?
3. Phillip Barrier updates and other news re. strip mall property, Structall, etc. Other new business news?  
Dave Smith re. Newland strip mall property development status and pancake house update.
4. **New Business and/or other issues to address:**
  - a. "Finding, Keeping, and Motivating Workers Workshop" to be presented by Professor Tonya Snider - re. offer from Allen Cook. Per Phillip Barrier's recommendation during our September meeting it was agreed to postpone this workshop until early next Spring due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Reminder: our only obligation to host will be to provide a venue – Avery County Community Center and lunch and we will also offer as Zoom webinar for those who cannot attend in person. Note: Allen Cook OK'd re. 09-29 e-mail. We need to come up with an estimated cost budget and submit to the Board of Commissioners for approval before we can schedule a workshop date. In this regard let's use \$10.00 per person and estimate the potential for 30 participants? **Are we ready to schedule?**
  - b. Other?
5. **Avery County Chamber of Commerce - Anne Winkleman.**
6. **Agricultural sub-Committee Report [Jerry Moody]:**
  - a. News and/or updated information on the kill & chill project news.
  - b. Ken Walter re. IPM interviews he attended.
  - c. Other
7. **Marketing sub-Committee Report [Ken]:**
  - a. No report.

**8. Education sub-Committee Report [Ken Walter]:**

- a. Phillip & Ken were asked to join the new Avery County School System “Business Advisory Council” and both attended the first meeting. The next meeting has been scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- b. Other

**9. Future discussion and/or action topics:**

- a. Suggestion from Ken Walter. When the Avery County Occupancy Tax dollars start to flow and if the Board of Commissioners decides to hire an administrator would it then be time to consider an Avery County Facebook page? To initially address the question Ken would like to ask Anne Winkleman and Kate Gavenus for their thoughts given any experience or insight they may have.

**10.** What have I/we missed – questions, concerns, other?

**11. Next meeting** – Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Are there any objections to closing the meeting? Hearing no objections, the meeting is adjourned.**

**NOTES:** (1) Opening & closing instructions in **bold** are now in compliance with “Robert’s Rules of Order”, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition.

**PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES:**

1. April 29, 2019 combined EDC/BoC meeting review. For the record our suggestion list was:
  - a) The development of an Arts, Craft & Agricultural Products Market. Such a facility appropriately marketed would serve all of Avery County.
  - b) Pitch to gated community members our Avery County business opportunities and county needs, in the hope of enlisting their interest and/or support.

NOTE: Susan has made an excellent suggestion - “Next time, instead of calling it a joint meeting, what if we call it a ‘presentation’ to the BOC. We could break the hour in half & in the first half hour, we could share info on what we have accomplished. Then, give the second half hour for feedback or talk time.”
2. Previously Phil Trew, NC Works and Rebecca Bloomquist, High Country Council of Governments has offered their assistance with grant writing - as has Kate Gavenus [many moons ago].  
Is investigating grants something we should be recommending to the Board of Commissioners?
3. At the October 28, 2019 meeting a motion was made & passed extending the EDC Meeting times from 6:00 to 6:30 PM, on those dates when the committee has a guest speaker.

**Reminders:**

1. Allen Cook, Mayland Community College Small Business Center continues to offer assistance programs & services to help business owners understand & apply for grants & loans.