

Meeting Agenda

Date: May 25, 2021

Subject: Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: In person meeting, but please remember we need to be in compliance with any remaining COVID-19 guidelines.

If you can't make the meeting, but would like to join by phone please let me know as far in advance as possible.

The meeting will come to order.

- 1.** Approve and or amend the April 27th Meeting Minutes.
- 2. Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Ken Walter to provide a progress report on our Web Site Development Project.
 - b. Kate Gavenus re. Main Street America in Newland status/progress update. NOTE: On COVID-19 hold.
 - c. Dave Smith re. Retail Strategies continuing retail marketing education program.
 - d. Advertising on Ray's Weather web site?
 - e. Other?
- 3.** Phillip Barrier updates and other news re. Bojangles', O'Reilly Auto Parts, etc. Availability of Avery County Logo decals? Other new business news?
Dave Smith re. Newland strip mall property development status.
Ken Walter re. Bent Pine Hollow, Chris Zecca and great piece in the April 28th. edition of the Avery Journal.
- 4. New Business and/or other issues to address:**
 - a. Status of new EDC appointments?
 - b. Next fiscal year's budget allocation status?
 - c. Do we want to/can we continue with our video project – Community Center, Hospital and High School renovations?
 - d. Ken Walter re. High Country Realtors Association housing study and Main Street Development Study Grant for Newland. I have invited Michael Cooper, Shared & Regional Government Affairs Director to our June meeting and he has tentatively accepted.
 - e. Status of my request to Phillip Barrier re. requested "going forward" meeting.
 - f. American Recovery Plan news applicable to EDC?
 - g. Other?
- 5. Agricultural sub-Committee Report [Jerry Moody]:**
 - a. News and/or updated information on the kill & chill project.
- 6. Education sub-Committee Report [Susan Siirila, Dave Smith & Ken Walter]:**
 - a. We will consider resumption of our Junior Achievement program when it is COVID-19 safe.
- 7. Marketing sub-Committee Report [Anne Winkelman?]:**
 - a. Availability of the Avery County Chamber of Commerce's 2021 "Business & Visitor Guide".
 - b. News?
- 8. Future discussion and/or action topics:**
 - a. ?

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

10. **Next meeting** – Tuesday, June 29th.

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”, 11th 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 have 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. Retaining Employees Workshop – to be rescheduled when it is COVID-19 safe.
2. Allen Cook, Mayland Community College Small Business Center continues to offer assistance programs & services to help business owners understand & apply for grants & loans.