

Meeting Agenda

Date: October 27, 2020

Subject: Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

IMPORTANT PRE-MEETING INFORMATION – While we are now allowed up to 25 people to attend a meeting let's all be prepared to be in compliance with COVID-19 social distancing and all other similar COVID -19 guidelines.

The meeting will come to order.

1. Approve and or amend the September 29th. Meeting Minutes.
2. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Web Site Development Project status update –Jerry, Melynda & Ken. Ken will propose that we:
 - (a) Do the County Chamber EDC site to maximize viewer interest. (b) Redo the Avery County website home page to include an “EDC Site Selection – Click Here” button and an “Economic Development Committee – Click Here” button to reroute viewers to the applicable web site. While Big Boom Design has setup the new EDC site on the Chamber home page, only our Introductory/Main page has been loaded so far.
 - b. Clayton Harpold re. EDC budget report.
 - c. Kate Gavenus re. Main Street America in Newland status/progress update.
 - d. Retaining Employees Workshop – to be rescheduled when it is COVID-19 safe.
 - e. Reminder: Allen Cook, Director of the Mayland Community College Small Business Center continues to offer various assistance programs & services to help business owners understand & apply for grants & loans. I share his announcements with all EDC Members. It is important that every effort be made to get this this information out to our business community.
 - f. Other?
3. Phillip Barrier updates.
4. Dave, Phillip & Ken: Newland strip mall property development status, IRC/Structall update and old Cardinal Insurance building status.
5. **New Business and/or other issues to address:**
 - a. New EDC member candidate list.
 - b. I have redone our “Resource Directory” page, now waiting for it to be loaded.
 - c. Eric Berg - presentation follow-up re. quality of life and tourist investments.
6. **Agricultural sub-Committee Report [Jerry]:**
 - a. Report?
7. **Residential Housing sub-Committee [Eric]:**
 - a. Report?
8. **Education sub-Committee Report [Susan, Dave & Ken]:**
 - a. We will consider Junior Achievement again when it is COVID-19 safe.
9. **Marketing sub-Committee Report [Melynda]:**
 - a.
10. **Potential future discussion topics:**
 - a.
11. What have I/we missed – questions, concerns, other?
12. **Next meeting** – Tuesday, November 24th. **This is Thanksgiving Week, is everyone OK with this?**

Is there any objection to closing the meeting? Hearing no objection, 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.