

Meeting Agenda

Date: May 20, 2019

Subject: Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

1. Approve and or amend the March 25th. meeting minutes.
 2. Guest speaker: Mr. Charlie Bradley from the Brian Hamilton Foundation will speak with us. He will explain their economic development work, and how we can use them as a resource for our entrepreneurs and small businesses in Avery County.
 3. Phillip Barrier updates & Status Reports.
 4. Ken & Phillip: IRC and Newland strip mall property development status.
 5. Junior Achievement program status – second program completed on April 17th. With a special “Thank You’s” to our team leader Susan and Dave Smith who was a new volunteer member.
 6. EDC web page “Resource Directory” updated to include Mayland Community College continuing education and employee training and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act information.
 7. Kate & Jesse will be attending the Boone Chamber’s multi-County economic summit on May 22nd.
 8. Combined EDC/BoC meeting review. For the record our suggestion list was:
 1. The development of an Arts, Craft & Agricultural Products Market. Such a facility appropriately marketed would serve all of Avery County.
 2. Financial support for the Avery County High School Culinary Arts Program.
 3. 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.”
9. Discuss and appropriate funds from our Advertising Budget to support the Avery County High School Culinary Program – see Lesley Platek’s e-mail attached.

If we have sufficient time we can address any or all of the following:

10. Old Business:

- a. Decide if we wish to recommend to the BoC that they join the Main Street America organization – re. information provided by Dave Smith and covered in my e-mail dated February 18th.
- b. Susan re. Phil Trew, NC Works and Rebecca Bloomquist, High Country Council of Governments have offered their assistance with grant writing, should we recommend that the Board of Commissioners investigate grants that they/we would be eligible to apply for? (also Kate Gavenus, Tourism & Economic Development Coordinator for Beech Mountain and her offer at our 5/28/18 meeting).
- c. Other?

11. New Business:

- a. Do we need to pursue contact with any of the organizations that attended our 10/29 meeting?
- b. Use of Blue Ridge Film Productions/Brent Ramsey and his drone to enhance the marketing of our available commercial/industrial properties?
- c. Other?

12. Marketing sub-Committee Report [Carmen & Melynda]:

- a. Other collaboration ideas with Mr. Frank Mr. Frank Ruggiero, Director of Marketing for the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation?
- b. Other?

13. Agricultural sub-Committee Report [David Pollard]:

- a. Status of wineries visits - re. having our logo on the Linville Falls wine bottle labels?
- b. Other.

14. Education sub-Committee Report [Susan & Ken]:

- a. Junior Achievement.
- b. Other?

15. Outdoor Recreation sub-Committee Report:

- a. Appoint a new committee?

16. Other new business and/or issues to address?

17. Potential discussion topics:

- (a) None scheduled.

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

19. Next meeting – Monday, June 24th.