

## Meeting Agenda

**Date:** September 30, 2019

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

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1. Approve and or amend the August 26<sup>th</sup>. meeting minutes.
2. Guest Speaker Mr. Rick Owen, Town of Banner Elk Town Manager to speak with us on the benefits of implementing an Occupancy Tax.
3. Phillip Barrier updates.
4. Dave, Phillip & Ken: IRC, Run Amok Mead and Newland strip mall property development status.
5. **Unfinished Business:**
  - a. March, 2020 Retaining Employees Workshop:
    1. I discussed with Debbie McLean, Branch Manager at the Avery County Morrison Public Library and she tentatively OK'd our use of the downstairs for our Workshop on either 3/19 or 3/26 – tentative because the county can bump us if they need the facility. She suggested I come in on/or after 11/01 and she will pencil us in for our dates and I will need to meet with her at least one (1) month in advance to confirm our final date. Reminder - the facility can accommodate 40 people easily - 60 max. and they have sufficient chairs & tables to seat 40.
    2. Jesse Pope to touch base with Jim Swinkola of Grandfather Home for Children and Sam Stephenson of Lees-McRae College?
    3. Kate Gavenus to touch base with Pat Mitchell of the North Carolina Department of Commerce as a potential presenter/speaker?
    4. Phillip Barrier to touch base with Bill Slagle, Regional EDC Representative also as a potential presenter/speaker?
    5. Melynda to touch base with Marilyn Boland as a potential presenter/speaker?
    6. I asked both Jesse Pope & David Pollard about the possibility of being presenters. Jesse will do or provide a staff member in his place and David also agreed.
    7. Where do we stand with Josh Smith and Dave Phillips?
    8. Susan Siirila to arrange for catering. Will be the Old Hampton Store, providing boxed lunches at approx. \$10.00 per head [**need BoC's approval**]. Also as a possible presenter/speaker?
    9. Additional assignment of project tasks?
  - b. **Cooperative Extension & Avery County Fair video. Also status of Pool Opening video, Cannon Hospital & Avery County High School ground breaking photos.**
  - c. Further discussion of Main Street America organization?
  - d. Other?
6. **New Business:**
  - a. See #8 "Outdoor Recreation sub-Committee Report".
  - b. **Need to select/obtain new photo for Avery County Chamber of Commerce "Business and Visitor Guide" ad.**
  - c. Do we need to extend our meeting time to 6:30 when we have a guest speaker? As an alternate Susan has suggested having a separate meeting date for guest speakers?
  - d. Potential new EDC members: Kate Gavenus suggested Jessica Wiseman, of Linville Falls Winery. Susan also has a suggestion and Ken recommended we recruit someone from the high school.
  - e. Other?

7. **Education sub-Committee Report [Susan, Dave & Ken]:**
  - a. Next Junior Achievement class to begin on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. [our 3<sup>rd</sup>. class to date] and will be double sessions each running from 12:17 until 1:47.
  - b. Junior Achievement volunteers?
  - c. Other?
8. **Outdoor Recreation sub-Committee Report:**
  - a. **Eric has volunteered to chair - we need to appoint?**
9. **Marketing sub-Committee Report [Melynda]:**
  - a. Other collaboration ideas with Mr. Frank Mr. Frank Ruggiero, Director of Marketing for the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation?
  - b. Other?
10. **Agricultural sub-Committee Report [David Pollard]:**
  - a. Status of wineries visits - re. having our logo on the Linville Falls wine bottle labels?
  - b. Other?
11. Other new business and/or issues to address?
12. Potential future discussion topics:
  - (a) None as of this date.
13. What have I/we missed – questions, concerns, other?
14. **Next meeting** – Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Note: In addition to covering all the “Unfinished Business”, the items in red must be addressed on/or before 6:00 to assure we still have a quorum.**

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?