

MINUTES

Thursday
March 17, 2022
2:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Frederick County Council Member Phil Dacey, Eric Aellen, Frederick County Farm Bureau, Carmen Hilton, Brunswick Main Street, Rebekah D Lusk, Esq., Business Law, Bar Association of Frederick County, Kara Norman, Downtown Frederick Partnership, Alice Settle-Raskin, Mount Airy Main Street Association, and Rick Weldon, Frederick Chamber of Commerce

Call to Order: Council Member Phil Dacey called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome: Council Member Phil Dacey delivered welcoming remarks to the Small Business Advisory Commission (SBAC)

Anirban Basu, Economist, Chairman and CEO of Sage Policy Group, Inc.: Mr. Basu reported the current economy situation and how it relates to small businesses.

Role of Small Business Advisory Commission and Charge: Council Member Phil Dacey explained that the Commission shall act as an advisory body that serves as a means for small businesses to be heard and understood, facilitate civic engagement, and legitimize issues of importance to small businesses operating in Frederick County.

The responsibilities include: advising the County Council on ways to enhance and improve the business climate for small businesses in Frederick County, represent the views and needs of the small business community, monitor, analyze, and make recommendations for existing or proposed legislation of the County government for their impact on small businesses, review existing Frederick County Ordinances for recommended changes through legislation to improve the business climate in Frederick County, review regulations and make recommendations on issues under the authority of County Government that could be altered to enhance the business climate for small businesses in Frederick County.

Within one year of the first meeting, before March 17, 2023, and annually thereafter, the Commission will submit a report to the County Council. Two years following the first meeting, the Commission will submit a status report to the County Council which will include assessment finding and recommendations. Upon submission of this report, the County Council may submit questions or requests to the Commission for additional information. The Commission will have eight weeks to respond to any requests. Upon completion of this review, the Council will vote to reauthorize the Commission.

The Commission shall adopt rules to govern its procedures and activities.

Election of Officers (Chair and Vice-Chair): Rick Weldon from the Frederick Chamber of Commerce and Rebekah D Lusk, Esq., Business Law, Bar Association of Frederick County volunteered to be the chair and vice chair respectively. They were elected unanimously.

Introduction of Members: County Council Member Phil Dacey asked the SBAC members introduce themselves.

Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act Overview: Frederick County Attorney, Bryon Black, discussed the requirements of the Maryland Open Meetings Act and the Maryland Public Information Act.

Programs Currently Offered to Small Businesses by Frederick County, Office of Economic Development: Council Member Phil Dacey explained that there was a scheduling conflict with our representative from the Office of Economic Development. The Commission will receive their information at a later meeting.

Future Charter Review Commission Meeting Dates and Times: Newly elected chair, Rick Weldon, will send out a Doodle poll for members to give their preference for meeting dates, times, and if the meetings will be virtual or in-person. Mr. Weldon offered the use of the Chamber of Commerce meeting room for SBAC meetings.

Rick Weldon took over the meeting as the newly elected chair of the Small Business Advisory Commission.

Other Business: Rick Weldon started a discussion on the Commission Members' obligation to do some outreach through their individual organizations. Small business owners should be encouraged to submit their questions, ideas, concerns and attend SBAC meetings.

Mr. Weldon announced that the Chamber of Commerce will hold a County Executive forum on April 7th.

Public Comments: None

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Carmen Hilton and seconded by Eric Aellen. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:36 pm

Rick Weldon, Chairperson

Small Business Advisory Commission