



Bath County EDA Meeting - 09 August, 2023

Meeting minutes from the 09th of August, 2023 EDA meeting: to be approved at the next meeting, 09/13/23.

Chairman Bruce McWilliams opened the scheduled meeting in the Bath County Historical Society at 5:00 pm.

Members Attending: Joe Wood, Pat Haynes, Bruce McWilliams, Stephen Hiner, Emily Ellis, Jonah Ford, William Perry, Chris Singleton

Members Absent: None

Staff Attending: EDA Attorney Chris Singleton

Guests: Alan Seacord, Jack Lindsey, Steve Brignoli, Valor Brignoli

Pledge of Allegiance: N/A

Public Comment: Available after new business discussed.

Agenda:

- Discuss EDA Mission Statement

Approval of Agenda: Bruce presented the 09 August meeting agenda.

Approval of Last Meetings Minutes: The print out of the minutes from 14 July were not available at the meeting - subject to approval at the September meeting.

Chairman's Report: Bruce opened discussion with introductions from all attending.

Legal Council Report:

- No pending lawsuits
- Continuing work to secure the donated land, known as the "Ball Field". This 3 acre lot sits East of the Virginia Ave and VA-611 junction. Coordinates: 38.005850, -79.841697

Treasurer Report:

- Two rent checks will appear on the statement this month.
- Expecting to see an additional \$425,000 coming in from the sale of the Millboro warehouse

Board/Guest Comments and Discussion:

Review of the Tourism Board Meeting

- The tourism board is currently defining the positions and responsibilities of their members.
- Meeting occur on the first Wednesday of the month @ 3:00 PM in the Homestead Tower Suite

Shenandoah strategic Plan - Discussed

- The Shenandoah Strategic Plan discusses many issues commonly seen by the surrounding mountain communities.
- While the problems are being addressed, including some seen here in Bath county, the strategic plan fails to provide solutions the county can implement to halt these events.
- As progress on the strategic plan is made, the Bath county EDA should stay up to date with the document, as it can provide general insight on the issues we may experience in Bath.

By-Laws

- On the 14 of June meeting, Bruce McWilliams proposed the EDA look at the mission statement and by-laws. Members collected their thoughts and provided several suggestions of what they believe the role of the EDA should be. These documents were collected and will be discussed further at the September meeting.
- As the EDA has members that represent a variety of businesses and neighborhoods in Bath county, this exercise was meant to capture aspirations and channel them into a common EDA goal/purpose.

Electric Car Charging Stations - Steve

- Establishing an Electric vehicle system in Bath county has the potential to bring more tourism to our county.
- As these systems are new, the EDA agreed that we could benefit from having an expert join our next meeting to provide more information on this new technology.
- There are various federal and state initiatives that provide funding for these EV charging stations.
- The counter argument to this initiative is that EV supercharger stations require an excessive amount of power. While the EV industry is on the rise, does Bath county currently have a high enough demand to install these stations? Further research regarding this subject is required in order to make an informed decision on the number of stations and best installation location.
- EV charging stations can be found in local communities such as Mountain Grove and Staunton.

Initiative: Power creation in Bath County

- Proposed by a guest, it was brought to the attention of the EDA that modular Fusion Reactors are available and legal to operate in the state of Virginia. Dominion has done further research on this subject, stating it can be a legitimate source of power within the decade
- Tonnage fee for trash is currently \$83/ton. Burning trash to produce power is a clean energy, however, a water source is required.
- Benefits: Minimal visual and odor impact to the county. Facilities are so discrete, they are currently operating in neighborhoods throughout Virginia.
- Not traditionally something the EDA would fund, but the EDA can learn more about the concept if it seems to be an economically viable initiative for the County.

Potential EDA Part-time position - Bruce

- Many conversations that take place at EDA meetings hold potential, however, there are no paid employees on the authority to follow through with our initiatives.
- Having a project lead for the EDA initiatives can help turn the group from being reactive to proactive.
- This is just a conversation starter, further deliberation and expansion on this topic would be needed.

Adjournment and Next Meeting: A motion to adjourn was made at approximately 6:00 pm by Bruce and seconded by Stephen. The vote was unanimous. The next EDA meeting will be in August 2023, or sooner if needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Perry, Secretary

X William Perry

Bruce McWilliams, Chairman

X Bruce McWilliams