



Guest Ms. Cathy Parsons representing the Merchants Committee was not in attendance.

**Economic Vitality: Mr. Brad Carrillo and Ms. Kathy Kunda are both on vacation.**

- No meeting has yet been scheduled for the Branding presentation.
- Ms. Szep said we need better communication concerning the setting of the new date as there was a bit of confusion when sharing the previous date and cancellation information.

**Design/Arts & Entertainment: Ms. Margie Blystone**

- Ms. Blystone reminded everyone of the upcoming First Friday Cemetery Walk with tours starting at the Cecil County Historical Society. Mr. Ed Ginder, Mayor Rob Alt, and Judge Will Davis will be portraying the previous mayors for the event with help from the Heritage Troop Players. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door.
- Ms. Blystone highly recommended attending the Beatles show at Cecil College this Friday and Saturday.
- October's First Friday, October 05, 2018 will feature the Empty Bowls Fundraiser at Art Space on Main which raises money for Wayfarer's House, a women and children's shelter.
- October 6<sup>th</sup> will be the Mini Grand Prix race.
- Ms. Blystone is working with the Cecil County Arts Council on a mural for the Cecil County Public Library.

**Office Report: Ms. Mary Jo Jablonski**

Downtown Business Report:

- Millstone Jewelry is very close to opening.
- The spa in the former Renaissance Restaurant/Children's Hour building is working toward their opening. They have basically gutted the building.
- Whiskey Rose Designs is also very close to opening.
- The owner of the 105 North Street building is once again looking for a tenant for the first-floor space (850 square feet) with rent being approximately \$650.00 per month.
  
- We received a Neighborhood Business Works Grant of \$50,000 for a Study of Development Strategies. The study was directed toward the Minihane's Irish Pub and Restaurant building but the information garnered can be used to apply to all downtown businesses. It could lead to possibly a \$30,000 grant or loan for someone who would want to partner with Minihane's to further develop their Main Street business. Ms. Jablonski will send the report to the Board.
  
- Sip & Serve Magazine – We have been requested to put up \$2,000.00 toward a Maryland Main Street ad campaign. The ad is full page and the Mayor and Commissioners have approved \$1,000 of the ad price with Cecil County Tourism sharing the additional \$1,000 cost with the Elkton Alliance.
  
- There have been some concerns brought to the Alliance from the restaurants in town that the Food Trucks/Hot Dog Vendors are causing them to lose business. Mary Jo stated that Bel Air has an ordinance that keeps these types of food vendors off the Main Street and can be applied to a specific area in town with exceptions for special events. There was some discussion on the matter and the consensus was split on this topic. An ordinance will be introduced by Ms. Jablonski at the next town meeting.

- Fall Fest planning is progressing. We need volunteers at the Information Table on Saturday from 9:00 on. The Elkton Rotary was of great assistance last year and they will be assisting again this year. Food vendors will be arriving and getting set up early on Friday. Public Works will be setting up the stage by noon on Friday. Mr. Walters brought up his concern with the police patrols as he felt they needed to do a better job than last year. There was a brief discussion as to possibly needing volunteer security shifts.
- Ms. Jablonski asked if we were going to continue the New Member Reception this fall. All in attendance agreed this was a very worthwhile effort and it would continue sometime in early November possibly on a Thursday at the same time as the previous receptions.
- Brookbend Interiors was congratulated on their 1-year Anniversary. It was stated and agreed to by all that they have been a great asset to the Town of Elkton.

**Chairman's Report: Larry W. Crouse, Jr.**

- Mr. Crouse reminded us that the Small Business Person of the Year is coming up in November and we need to get moving on the nominations. A business must be a member of the Alliance for the last 5 years. A list of previous winners will be sent to the Board.
- Mr. Crouse stated that he and Mr. Owens attended the last Merchant's Committee meeting which was held at North Street Hotel, chaired by Ms. Parsons and went very well but Mr. Crouse stated that these meetings need to be held in a private space. Per the charter and the by-laws, they are supposed to be held at the Alliance office. They asked questions of Mr. Crouse and Mr. Owens including how events happen and how road closures are determined. They told the Merchant's Committee that all events need to go through the Elkton Alliance per Mayor Alt and gave some additional explanations.

**Mayor Alt's Report:**

- No report as Mayor Alt was not available for the meeting.

**New Business:**

- Mr. Palmer stated that they had just returned from an event in Salt Lake City, Utah and they are using the parking meter money to provide for the homeless to keep them from begging for money on the streets. The money is given to organizations that then aid the homeless. Mr. Hicks stated that the activity at the Mary Randall House is increasing and they are creating a larger nuisance and leaving behind a lot of trash that he has been cleaning up.

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 a.m. by Mr. Owens and seconded by Mr. Walters with all in approval.**

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.**

**Respectively submitted:**

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**Cindy Fetterolf, Secretary**