

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE JULY 26, 2021 MEETING OF THE
FAIRFAX COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION**

Location: Electronic: conference call and zoom to provide video options

Attending: **SBC Members**

Tracey Wood (At-Large), Joseph Underwood (Braddock), Gigi Thompson Jarvis (Dranesville), Daren Shumate (Mason), Melvin Murphy (Providence), Chris Vernon (Springfield), Marvin Powell (Sully)

Staff

Cathy Muse, Chris McGough, DPMM

Guests

Shawnequa Alleyne

Absent: **SBC Members**

John Pellegrin (At-Large), Sha Scott-Boyd (At-Large), Gwyn Whittaker (Hunter Mill), Kelly Hebron (Lee), Melody Thorson (Mt. Vernon)

The Small Business Commission conducted a wholly electronic meeting (using a conference call option as well as a video conference option) because the COVID-19 pandemic made it unsafe to physically assemble a quorum in one location or to have the public present. The public was encouraged to participate with notices providing call-in info and contact information for alternative accommodations. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. and was facilitated by Chairman Powell.

The minutes from the 6/28 meeting was approved without amendment.

- **Chairman Powell conducted the following actions relevant to electronic meetings:**
 - A sound and video check was conducted to ensure that each member of the BAC may be adequately heard and that all members could hear each other.
 - Chairman Powell stated that the usual FOIA procedures, requiring in person assembly, cannot be implemented safely or practically due to the Covid-19 emergency.

- **Staff updates**
 - Cathy Muse, Director of the Dept. of Procurement and Material Management (DPMM), provided an update on general county operations and an update on the emergency response. Ms. Muse also provided an update on the upcoming Thrive and Sustain grant programs. Ms. Muse and the SBC discussed the recent Board Economic Initiatives Committee meeting on 7/20/21 in which upcoming programming was discussed. See this link for meeting information:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/board-supervisors-economic-initiatives-committee-meeting-july-20-2021>

- **Committee Updates**

- Commissioner Wood provided an update for the Communications Committee: Channel 16 interviews with Commissioners Thompson Jarvis and Shumate will occur on August 3rd. Commissioner Murphy agreed to be interviewed in October and serve as host of the Stepping Stones show. Commissioner Wood invited all Commissioners to volunteer for future interviews.

- **Old Business**

- The SBC continued discussing education and outreach, including future event ideas. Chairman Powell facilitated the discussion and invited all Commissioners to take action in ways that would benefit their districts and leverage their unique skills. The SBC discussed reaching out to Channel 16 to explore assistance with alternative events.

- **New Business**

- Commissioner Wood asked for volunteers to serve on the next nominating committee. More discussion will occur at the next meeting.
- Commissioner Wood is compiling a Fairfax County Restaurant Report. This includes a survey of restaurant owners to gauge their ownership experience. Commissioner Wood solicited ideas for the names of restaurants who might be interested in participating.

Adjournment – Chairman Powell adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.