

**Minutes of January 2019 Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 16, 2019**

Location: Gateway Media Arts Lab
3311 Rhode Island Avenue
Mount Rainier, MD 20712

**Present**: Brooke Kidd, President (Joe's Movement Emporium); Larry Solomon, Treasurer (Thrifty Car Rental); Toni Tileva (MRBA Consultant), Neil Dicken (Party Time Liquors), Michelle Darden Lee (Gateway Media Arts Lab), Sheliyah Johnson (Sweet & Natural). Cecily Habimana (Sew Creative Lounge), Meico Whitlock (Mindful Techie), Daniel Cruz (ZZ Pizza), Salvador Palacios (ZZ Pizza), Shivali Shah (City of Mount Rainier), Alma Ferrufino (City of Mount Rainier), Mark Davis (City of Mount Rainier), Ronald Hopkins (Economic Development Director, City of Mount Rainier), Jimmy Tarlau, Heather Tinelli (PGEDC), Charmin Lloyd (Employ PG), Michael Preston (Employ PG), Luke Chesek (City of Mount Rainier), DesireDuBose, Justin Bost (Design Bold), Rajni Sood, Chantal Attias (DL Management), Jerry Dawson (JDawson Global Real Estate), Sherry Lumpkin (The Ragbaby Exchange), Aleathia Adams (YWCA National Capital Area), Robin Bliss (Display Queen and MUTC committee member),

The monthly Business Opportunity Breakfast meeting was held at 8:30am and called to order by Brooke Kidd, President.

**Introductions and Updates from Businesses**

The new management team of ZZ Pizza and Kabob introduced themselves to the group: Daniel Cruz and Salvador Palacios. ZZ’s will now serve Latino food, in addition to the regular menu, Monday through Saturday.

Sew Creative Lounge shared their winter children and adult schedules.

**A warm welcome to Ronald Hopkins, Mount Rainier's New Economic Development Director**

Ronald Hopkins has joined the City of Mount Rainier. Beginning Feb. 1st, Ronald will meet with individual business owners to receive your feedback on your needs. To make an appointment, please email him at rhopkins@mountrainiermd.org. He looks forward to engaging with you.

**Internship and On The Job Training Programs**

Charmin Lloyd, a Lead Business Consultant with Employ Prince George's, presented information on the County's internship and on the job training program.  In brief:

* On The Job Training provides for 75% reimbursement of the cost of training by the County to qualifying businesses when hiring new employees
* The internship program has young (18-24 year old) interns who have been trained and are ready to join your business. Their salary would be covered by the County, so they are free to you!

**Financing Opportunities**
Heather Tinelli, from the Prince George’s Economic Development Corporation, has a number of opportunities for local businesses.

There are tax incentives, an Economic Development Incentive Fund, direct and conditional loans, and property and employment tax savings.

<http://www.pgcedc.com/>

**Maryland Business Works**

Provides a dollar for dollar match for incumbent worker training.  [https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/mbw.shtml](https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/mbw.shtml%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)



In addition, Employ Prince George’s hosts career fairs, a job posting board, has a pool of applicants, and also has office space in their Innovation Station, which is a business incubator/office space.

<http://www.employpg.org/>

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am.