

## Minutes

Reisterstown Improvement Association, Inc. Tuesday Morning Business Meeting @ Reter's Crab House & Grille on Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Meeting called to Order by Kathy Gambrill at 10 am.

Welcome by Kathy Gambrill

Introduction of Attendees: Vicki Almond (Councilwoman 2<sup>nd</sup> District), Keith Scott (guest speaker), Kathy Gambrill, Herb Weiss, Ernie Schmidhauser, Brendan Schreiber, Justin Switzer, Kinsey Gill and daughter Ellie and Brad Reter.

Justin Switzer, Promotion Chairperson, reported on upcoming RIA activities:

Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> Dining at Reter's fund raising event here from 11 am – 10 pm.

Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> Spooktacular @ Franklin Middle School from 9 am to 4 pm.

Reisterstown Rocks has received favorable comment on Facebook

Red Cross requires 30 signatures before B.C. Public Library may schedule a blood drive.

Keith Scott, President and CEO of the Small Business Resource Center was the guest speaker on the following topics:

Small Business Resource Center is a FREE service of two counselors to assist small businesses. It is not a source for grants. SBRC works with all chambers. Currently it participates in 5 to 6 ribbon cuttings per week and has a goal of increasing these to twenty.

Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce can be described as member driven. It places emphasis on education and development of job skills. It has been called:

1. Dating service for business. Place to NETWORK.
2. Legislative arm for businesses.

Question & Answer session evolved into a "Brain Storming Session" of open discussion.

- Apprentice program in schools to give students skills required by the trades".
- Tour of Main Street.
- Baltimore County Hotel tax plan is being promulgated by "Tourism Council"
- All Main Streets are different. Different resources and different needs.
- Shopping revolution is spurred by age demographics. Millennials do not purchase the items that their parents did. Decline of brick & mortar stores with accompanying rise in internet shopping.
- Arts District is thriving in Catonsville.
- Fink Studio could be the center for a Reisterstown Arts District.
- "Make a space" provides space in a building for seasonal or small businesses.
- Trends can attract but are they short term or are they lasting?

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 pm.

Submitted by Ernie Schmidhauser