



MARYLAND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Minutes Approved on 06.12.26

SPECIAL OPEN MEETING

May 11, 2026 | 10:00 AM

[VIRTUAL]

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ashley Chenault, Charles County Tourism
Dave Ferraro, Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park
Tonya Fitzpatrick, Esq., World Footprints, LLC
Andrew Frank, Capex Advisory
Del. Wayne Hartman, Maryland House of Delegates
James Mathias, University of MD Eastern Shore

Leverne McElveen, Leverne McElveen & Associates, LLC
Ben Seidel, Real Hospitality Group
Sandy Turner, Cecil County Tourism
Cassandra Vanhooser, Talbot County Department of
Economic Development and Tourism

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Arthur, The Ivy Hotel
Todd Burbage, Blue Water
Melonie Johnson, MGM National Harbor
Senator Nancy King, Maryland State Senate
Gerardo Martinez, Wild Kid Acres, LLC

Senator Johnny Mautz, Maryland State Senate
Chris Riehl, Rent-A-Tour
Al Spence, A.S. Midway Tours
Shelonda Stokes, Downtown Partnership
Del. Melissa Wells, Maryland House of Delegates

I. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order

Vice Chair Dave Ferraro called the meeting of Monday, May 11, 2026, to order, welcoming attendees. A roll call indicated Board Members present.

Ferraro indicated the meeting announcement was posted on May 7, 2026 and then read the Open Meetings Act statement.

II. Approval of January 9, 2026 Minutes

Vote Taken: Vice Chair Dave Ferrero asked if all had read the January 9, 2025, board meeting minutes and subsequently, called for a motion to accept the minutes. Ashley Chenault made the motion to approve, and it was seconded by Andy Frank; Ferraro asked for discussion and Sandy Turner requested the date of the her Maryland Heritage Areas Authority term be changed to 10/01/26; Ferraro then asked if the minutes were accepted with edit and asked for a roll call for all in favor: “For” Chenault, Ferraro, Fitzpatrick, Frank, Hartman, Mathias, McElveen, Turner, Vanhooser; all were in favor with no abstentions, so the motion carried. Note, Seidel was on mute on the phone at the time of this approval. .

VIII. Adjournment and Move to Closed Session

Vote Taken: Vice Chair Ferraro requested a motion to adjourn the meeting and moved to closed session in accordance with Other Law Exception General Provision 3-305, the Board will meet to consider confidential commercial and financial information. Fitzpatrick made the motion. The motion to adjourn was seconded by McElveen and asked for a roll call for all in favor: “For” Chenault, Ferraro, Fitzpatrick, Frank, Hartman, Mathias, McElveen, Turner, Vanhooser; all were in favor with no abstentions, so the motion carried. Note, Seidel was on mute on the phone at the time of this approval. The meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.



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CLOSED MEETING

May 11, 2026 | 10:15 AM

Great Wolf Lodge

1240 Chesapeake Overlook Pkwy, Perryville, MD 21903

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ashley Chenault, Charles County Tourism
Dave Ferraro, Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park
Tonya Fitzpatrick, Esq., World Footprints, LLC
Andrew Frank, Capex Advisory
Del. Wayne Hartman, Maryland House of Delegates
James Mathias, University of MD Eastern Shore

Leverne McElveen, Leverne McElveen & Associates, LLC
Ben Seidel, Real Hospitality Group
Chris Riehl, Rent-A-Tour (afternoon)
Sandy Turner, Cecil County Tourism
Cassandra Vanhooser, Talbot County Department of
Economic Development and Tourism

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Arthur, The Ivy Hotel
Todd Burbage, Blue Water
Melonie Johnson, MGM National Harbor
Senator Nancy King, Maryland State Senate
Gerardo Martinez, Wild Kid Acres, LLC

Senator Johnny Mautz, Maryland State Senate

Al Spence, A.S. Midway Tours
Shelonda Stokes, Downtown Partnership
Del. Melissa Wells, Maryland House of Delegates

OTD Staff Present

Lisa Hansen Terhune, Cynthia Miller, Marci Ross, Leslie Troy, Rianna Wan and Rich Gilbert (afternoon)

Guests

Aviva North and Jen Gray-O'Connor, Coraggio Group

I. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order

Vice Chair Dave Ferraro called the meeting of Monday, May 11, 2026, to order, welcoming attendees. A roll call indicated Board Members present.

II. Session Discussion

Board members heard and discussed predecisional strategic plan concepts, including elements related to the organization's vision, mission, and long-term priorities. The discussion was informed by confidential predecisional research and stakeholder engagement findings.

III. Adjournment

Vote Taken: Chair Ben Seidel requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hartman made the motion. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Chenault and asked for a roll call for all in favor: "For" Chenault, Ferraro, Fitzpatrick, Frank, Hartman, Mathias, McElveen, Riehl, Seidel, Turner, Vanhooser; all were in favor with no abstentions, so the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.