



MARYLAND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Minutes Approved on 06.12.26

SPECIAL OPEN MEETING

May 12, 2026 | 8:30 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

Leverne McElveen, Leverne McElveen & Associates, LLC
Chris Riehl, Rent-A-Tour
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

James Mathias, University of MD Eastern Shore
Senator Johnny Mautz, Maryland State Senate
Al Spence, A.S. Midway Tours
Shelonda Stokes, Downtown Partnership
Del. Melissa Wells, Maryland House of Delegates

I. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order

Chair Ben Seidel called the meeting of Tuesday, May 12, 2026, to order, welcoming attendees. A roll call indicated Board Members present.

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

II. Adjournment and Move to Closed Meeting

Vote Taken: Chair Ben Seidel 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. Hartman 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, McElveen, Seidel, 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 8:35 a.m.



MARYLAND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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CLOSED MEETING

May 12, 2026 | 8:45 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
Chris Riehl, Rent-A-Tour
Ben Seidel, Real Hospitality Group
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Economic Development and Tourism

MEMBERS ABSENT

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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

Rich Gilbert, Lisa Hansen Terhune, Cynthia Miller, Marci Ross, Leslie Troy, Rianna Wan

Guests

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

I. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order

Chair Ben Seidel called the Tuesday, May 12, 2026 closed session to order with a roll call indicating Board Members present.

II. Session Discussion

Board members 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 and Move to Closed Meeting

Vote Taken: Chair Ben Seide requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chenault made the motion. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Hartman 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 12:10 p.m.