

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

April 14, 2021

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:30 AM on April 14, 2021, via Zoom webinar.

Call to Order 11:33 PM by Chair, Ayoka Nurse

1. **Roll Call:**

A quorum was present with commission members A. Nurse, A. Anderson, A. Shields, B. Evans, D. Wear, G. Sewell-Murphy, K. James, O. Willis, , and Mrs. Dandie

2. **Absent:**

A. Delgado, J. Lee, R. Yazdi, and Q. Riley

3. **Staff:**

Thomas Omolo,

4. **Council Liaison:**

Demnlus Johnson III

5. **Guest:**

Sarah Kirk, and Judith Taylor
Michelle McGeoy
Kyle Tankard

6. **Minutes:**

1st –G. Sewell-Murphy, 2nd – A. Anderson, and Unanimous Approval

7. **Presentation:**

Commissioner G. Sewell Murphy: The Commissioner expressed interest in pursuing sustainability of plant-based products, specifically with Hemp products, and synergies with the Cities Sustainability Initiative. A proposed next step is to conduct an assessment to determine what information businesses would like to gain from a Business Expo and a proposed structure of the expo. Commissioner Sewell Murphy requested City Staff to review how many industrial Plant-Based Businesses are in Richmond. The next step is to vote on creating a new subcommittee to explore the Sustainability of Plant-Based Products and the creation of a Business Expo.

Michelle McGeoy – Presented on creating a Richmond Buy Local Campaign due to difficulty finding services from Richmond-based businesses. Many businesses found through a google search are part of national organizations that refer to businesses that are willing to do work in Richmond. Desire to brand a Richmond Buy Local Website, with businesses that pay Richmond taxes would get a free listing on the site. It would set up a social enterprise to hire and train residents to help them further boost their businesses. The next step is to identify funding for the program.

Judith Taylor, Sarah Kirk; Short-Term Local Business Recovery Action Plan (STLRBAP) – Present a final draft of the STLRBAP. HR&A has compiled information from interviews with businesses and stakeholders and had incorporated edits submitted by the EDC during two requests for feedback opportunities. Highlighted opportunities for commissioners to provide feedback on the role the EDC can play as a partner. Policy Subcommittee will request additional time to review the Short-Term Local Business Recovery Action Plan and provide input. Emphasis on finding ways to collaborate between the City, the EDC, local Non-profits, and local technical assistant providers.

Kyle Tankard, City of Richmond Cannabis Social Equity – SCI Consulting group presented the Cannabis Equity Assessment and Cannabis Equity Ordinance steps. Kyle provided a draft timeline for completing the equity assessment and the development of the Equity Program. Vice-Chair Anderson requested additional information for Eaze’s Momentum Business Accelerator program.

8. **Committee Reports:**

Commissioners discussed subcommittee roles and identified membership into specific subcommittees. Commissioners will meet outside of regular meeting to discuss goals of subcommittees and to elect subcommittee chair to be primary point of contact.

Discussion around forming a new subcommittee for Hemp and Business Expo. Commissioner Sewell-Murphy will put this item on the agenda for the April 14, 2021 Economic Development Commission Meeting.

- Cannabis Subcommittee – Discussed in the SCI update.
- Community Engagement – No report.
- Taste of Richmond – Will set up a meeting to begin discussing hosting the event in 2021.
- Policy – Have met a couple of times to prepare for meeting with HR&A, with a bulk of the meeting dedicated to phase II. Have explored the potential for Richmond to join the East Bay Economic Development Alliance. In terms of the workforce development, established meetings with RichmondWorks team and Shantina Jackson-Romero (Managing Director, Bay Area at Code Nation) to support workforce development to code.
 - ACTION ITEM – Vice Chair Anderson Motion, Second by Commissioner G. Sewell – “Policy Subcommittee has the authority on behalf of the EDC to send a letter of support for the Short-Term Local Business Recovery Action Plan”. Unanimous approval.

9. **Report from City Council:**

10. **Staff Reports:**

Mayor’s Office – The Economic Development Commission has two current vacancies.

City Manager’s Office – Provided a presentation on the Fiscal Year 20-21 Q3 update.

Finance Office – Measure U – Leilani Delacruz and Antonio Buenos, the March 23, 2021 RFQ and was awarded to Management Partners (Only submission). Weekly internal meeting to prepare for the implementation of Measure U. Plan to go to Council on April 27 to provide an update on measure U gross receipts.

Vice Chair Anderson Motion and Commissioner Shields 2nd, to “extend the meeting by 15 minutes.” – Unanimous approval

11. **Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts Presentation:**

12. **Next meeting:** 5/14/2021

13. **Adjournment:** 1:17 PM