

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

February 9th, 2022

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:37AM on February 9th, 2022, via Zoom webinar.

Call to Order 11:37 AM by Vice Chair, A. Anderson

1. Roll Call:

A quorum was present with commission members: A. Anderson, K. Lynch, G. Sewell-Murphy, D. Wear, B. Evans, O. Willis, A. Oren, J. Lee, A. Portillo-Knowles

2. Absent:

L. Dandie, K. James, T. Brown, R. Yazdi, A. Nurse

3. Staff:

Thomas Omolo, Kyle Lam, Samantha Carr, Antonio Banuelos

4. Council Liaison:

5. Guest:

6. Minutes:

1st – G. Sewell-Murphy, 2nd – O. Willis

Presentation:

Antonio Banuelos, Thomas Omolo – Measure U Outreach (Video Timestamp: 27:12)

Business Tax's original estimate was 9.5 million dollars. Revenue loss and one-time shortfall from original projections by \$2 million due to being a transition year and postponement of the implementation date. Datasheets, renewal notices, and flyers were mailed out to businesses. Measure U administration rules and procedures will be a living document.

Thomas Omolo – Cannabis Equity Grant (Video Timestamp: 5:40)

City applied and awarded funding of \$1.319 million dollars for Cannabis Equity programming. Currently working on press release. Next steps included amending current ordinance, conducting a fee analysis, setting up an RFP process for technical assistant providers for full-service support for businesses looking into cannabis sector.

EDC Elections for Chair and Vice Chair (Video Timestamp: 20:50)

Nominations for Chair can be emailed to Thomas. Elections for Chair will take place in next meeting. Thomas will investigate minutes to see when Vice Chair Anderson was elected, and Vice Chair elections will take place one year from the date.

Committee Reports:

Policy (Video Timestamp: 54:50)

1. Committee is focusing on working on the following:
 - a. Additional collaborating and support with HR&A
 - b. Measure U education, awareness, and retention
 - c. Focus on new business and community benefits
 - d. Exploring relationship of joining EBEDA (East Bay Economic Development Alliance).

Community Engagement (Video Timestamp: 55:40)

- Committee is in process of revising of goals and making goals specific for Measure U, and Measure U education and distribution.

Taste of Richmond

- No Update

Cannabis (Video Timestamp: 58:40)

- Refer to update above. Thomas will meet Cannabis committee.

Sustainability: Businesses/Industrial Hemp & Expo/Assessment (Video Timestamp: 58:52)

1. Committee goals include is focusing on working on the following:
 - a. Commissioner Sewell-Murphy expressed interest in continuing to lead committee
 - b. Gathering research on Sustainability Expo
 - c. Networking and collaborating with the New Blue Green Deal project.
 - d. Working with Youth Council and Stakeholders, in addition to also expanding on duties Commission's purpose to advise City Council on Economic Development and Economic decisions.

Report from City Council: No report received

Staff Reports:

Finance Department:

No Updates. Refer to Measure U Presentation above

City Manager's Office (1:08:50)

- Potential Vacant Property Tax – Will be presenting to council about updates on outreach and getting feedback from city council about next steps.
- Green Blue New Deal – Goal is to go to council in March. RFP was released and closed. Evaluation panel was created to assess the response and currently working with consultant. Planning for more updates and news in March.
- SB 1383 – RecycleMore will be implementing this law in Richmond. Find out more on the City Website.

Mayor's Office

No Update, All vacancies filled.

Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts Presentation: (Video Timestamp: 1:15:05)

Cordell Hindler attended youth council meeting last month and asked Thomas to look into vacancies within the Economic Development Commission. Thomas Omolo read Cordell Hindler's written update: Mayor mentioned the Economic Development Commission during meeting. Invitation to commissioners to a play of "As You Like It" at the Masquers Playhouse. Commissioners are also invited Council of Business and Industries general meeting in which Richmond City Mayor Tom Butt will be providing the annual City Report as well as an update of the City's 2021 activities and plans for 2022. Cordell Hindler will email Thomas of details about an event called the Reorganization Chart Party.

Commissioner Sewell-Murphy announced retired commissioner's Ella Sewell memorial.

7. Next meeting: March 9, 2022

8. Adjournment: 12:57 PM