

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

January 12, 2022

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:34AM on January 12, 2022, via Zoom webinar.

Call to Order 11:35 AM by Chair, A. Nurse

1. Roll Call:

A quorum was present with commission members: A. Anderson, A. Nurse, K. Lynch, G. Sewell-Murphy, D. Wear, B. Evans, O. Willis, T. Brown, R. Yazdi, A. Oren, J. Lee

2. Absent:

L. Dandie, K. James

3. Staff:

Thomas Omolo, Kyle Lam

4. Council Liaison:

5. Guest:

Bouakhay Phongboupha, Cinthia Hernandez, Tamara Walker, Antonio Banuelos, Anil Comelo

6. Minutes:

1st – A. Anderson, 2nd – D. Wear

Presentation:

Anil Comelo, Antonio Banuelos – Measure U Implementation (Timestamp:)
Provided an update on the implementation of Measure U. City has been waiting on sending a letter to the business community, in order to gather feedback from the council, on whether to change the rates or delay the implementation. The letter will be sent out by soon and will include general information of Measure U and relevant resources. Staff capacity has increased by 4 temporary employees.

Bouakhay Phongboupha, Cinthia Hernandez (Richmond Works/ Employment and Training) (Timestamp: Introduced Tamara Walker as the new Manager of the Employment and Training Division.
Introduced 2022 Programs such as Business Solution Free Core Services, Reimagine Richmond Work Experience Program, Dislocated Youth Worker Innovation Challenge, Summer Training, and Employment Program for Students, RichmondBUILD, and YouthBuild Academy, English Language Learner (ELL 2.0), Project IMPACTO, Prison 2 Employment Initiative.

All EDC Commissioners – EDC Goals for 2022

Goals include the restructuring of Committees and the Working Group, having Taste of Richmond 2022,

EDC Representative for Economic Development Working Group
Commissioner Ahmad Anderson and Ayoka Nurse will be representatives of the Economic Development Commission for the Economic Development Working Group.

Committee Reports:

Policy

No Update at this time

Community Engagement

No Update at this time

Taste of Richmond

No Update at this time

Cannabis

The city has adopted a manual for Cannabis Equity Program.

Sustainability: Businesses/Industrial Hemp & Expo/Assessment

Expo goals include highlighting and showcasing sustainability focus on the city. Committee needs assessment on the financial aspect of the expo.

Report from City Council: No report received

Staff Reports:

Finance Department:

No Updates. Refer to Measure U Presentation earlier

City Manager's Office

Samantha Carr presented the Vacant Parcel Tax workshop on January 12, 2022, 6 PM. The City of Richmond is analyzing a potential vacant property tax to support city services for blight abatement code compliance and general revenue enhancement. City in partnership with SCI Consulting mailed 7000 surveys to seek input on vacant property tax.

Economic Development Working Group – Presented website for the Economic Development Working Group. Items discussed at the Economic Development Working Group meeting includes the development of City-wide Buy Local Campaign and the inclusion of youth in the workforce and training.

Mayor's Office

Update on Commissioners – No update, there is 1 commissioner vacancies.

Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts Presentation:

Cordell Hindler suggested using timers to pace meetings. He will talk with the youth council to meet with the Economic Development Commission. Thomas Omolo read Cordell Hindler's written update: Mayor mentioned the Economic Development Commission during the meeting. Invitation to commissioners to a play of "As You Like It" at the Masquers Playhouse

7. Next meeting: February 9, 2021

8. Adjournment: 12:56 PM