

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

December 8, 2021

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:34AM on December 8, 2021, via Zoom webinar.

Call to Order 11:34 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, A. Oren, A. Shields

2. Absent:

R. Yazdi, L. Dandie, K. James, J. Lee

3. Staff:

Thomas Omolo, Samantha Carr, Kyle Lam

4. Council Liaison:

5. Guest:

Sal Bednarz, Wesley Alexander

6. Minutes:

1st – G. Sewell Murphy, 2nd – T. Brown

Presentation:

Samantha Carr, City of Richmond - City Manager's Office. (17:45)
Presented Green-Blue New Deal and Just Transition Development definitions, goals, and statuses. RFP was released for the consultant to gather data and input from Community and review current plans, policies, city services and programs to conduct a gap analysis. Current status of RFP is that consultants will be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act.

Sal Bednarz, Port Labs; Wesley Alexander, CoBiz Richmond. (27:45)
Port Labs is a specialized maker space and coworking facility that works with early-stage companies working to develop physical products. Port Labs recently joined the Northern California SPC network as an affiliate, allowing Port Labs to provide technical assistance services. Port Labs is also a recent State-sanctioned iHub (Innovation Hub) in East Bay. CoBiz will be the physical site in Richmond

Committee Reports:

Policy (44:05)

Tasks include reviewing and commenting on emerging growth industries, reviewing programs dedicated to increasing employment, researching and understanding city programs, gathering resident information on city and desired services, engaging with hired consultants, and engaging in various meetings.

Motion for the EDC to write a letter to Richmond City Council voicing concern over Measure U and to request to delay the implementation date of Measure U until adequate Community and business outreach is conducted. – Commissioner Evans made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Anderson

Community Engagement (1:01:20)

No update

Taste of Richmond (1:01:35)

No update. Initial Zoom Meeting tentatively planned for January.

Sustainability: Businesses/Industrial Hemp & Expo/Assessment: (1:02:25)

Subcommittee initially proposed an informal assessment to identify parameters further to enhance Richmond's sustainability. Projected to have Expo to have hybrid elements. Asked commission members for recommendations and suggestions about informal assessment.

Cannabis – Committee has been working with Kyle Tankard of SCI Consulting Group and will be having an upcoming committee meeting.

Report from City Council: No report received

Staff Reports:

Finance Department: (1:08:14)

No Updates

City Manager's Office (1:08:23)

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

Cannabis Equity Manual, Community Meeting – Community Meeting on November 16 for Cannabis Equity Manual. Presented Cannabis Website of links, resources, documents, and related information

City of Richmond is analyzing a potential vacant property tax to support city services for blight abatement code compliance and general revenue enhancement. In partnership with SCI Consulting, the city mailed 7000 surveys to seek input on vacant property tax.

Mayor's Office

Update on Commissioners – No update; there is still one commissioner vacancy.

Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts Presentation:

Cordell Hindler will email Thomas Omolo his comment.

7. **Next meeting:** January 12, 2022

8. **Adjournment:** 1:07 PM