

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

November 11, 2021

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:35AM on November 11, 2021, 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, K. James, T. Brown

2. Absent:

A. Shields, R. Yazdi, L. Dandie, J. Lee

3. Staff:

Gabino Arredondo, Kyle Lam

4. Council Liaison:

5. Guest:

Kyle Tankard, Andrea Portillo-Knowles

6. Minutes:

1st – G. Sewell-Murphy, 2nd – B. Evans

Presentation:

Kyle Tankard, City of Richmond Cannabis Social Equity – SCI Consulting Group. Presented the Cannabis Equity Assessment and Equity Manual Program Development Steps. Kyle discussed the equity program components and discussed feedback and input received from the Cannabis Subcommittee. Key points discussed includes adopting a program by December 13, 2021 to be eligible for state cannabis equity grant funding, program implementation – logic model, draft eligibility requirements, cannabis subcommittee feedback. Upcoming Community Meetings on November 16 and November 17, City Council Presentation of Draft Cannabis Equity Program Manual on November 23rd and Council Adoption on December 7th.

Gabino Arrendondo, City of Richmond City Manager's Office. Presented Community Benefits Policy Development Websites with resources and documents for the development of Community Benefit Policy. asked for community input on development of Community Benefit

Andrea Portillo-Knowles, Richmond Main Street Initiative – New Executive Director of RMSI. Presented the Small Business Saturday Event on November 27th, 2021. Richmond Main Street has signed on to be a Neighborhood Champion with American Express and is hosting Small Business Saturday to encourage Richmond community to shop small and support local businesses.

Committee Reports:

Policy – Tasks include reviewing and comment on emerging growth industries, review programs dedicating to increasing employment, research and understand city programs, gather resident information needs on city and desire services, engaging with hired consultants, and engaging in various meetings.

Community Engagement – Discussed mission, purpose, and approach to community engagement and economic development in Richmond.

Taste of Richmond – No update.

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

Sustainability: Businesses/Industrial Hemp & Expo/Assessment: Subcommittee has explored interest in attracting plant-based business and opportunities in encouraging sustainability. Subcommittee is currently working to submit items and suggestions for Economic Development Commission regarding a Sustainable Business “Focused” Expo Assessment for December meeting. Started conversations of strategies and implementations of sustainable practices in small businesses. Requested to have a conversation with HR&A about their previous presentations on sustainability.

Report from City Council: No report received

Staff Reports:

Finance Department:

No Updates

City Manager's Office

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

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

Climb Higher, Living Wage Series – Webinar Series by CoBiz Richmond about Livable Wage opportunities

Additional Opportunities – Grant opportunities by Pacific Community Ventures for high tech new businesses; ICA Accelerator and Lab Programs

Mayor's Office

Update on Commissioners – No update, there are still two commissioner vacancies.

Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts Presentation:

Cordell Hindler left a comment for public record last week. Cordell has candidates in mind to fill empty commission seats. Reorganization Chart will be on the agenda on November 16th 2021. Additional comment inviting the Commission to CoBiz Richmond Competent Catwalk Event, \$20 a ticket.

7. **Next meeting:** December 8, 2021

8. **Adjournment:** 12:58 PM

