

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

March 9, 2022

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:33 AM on March 9, 2022, via Zoom webinar.

Call to Order 11:33 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, A. Oren, J. Lee, K. James, A. Portillo-Knowles

2. Absent:

L. Dandie, T. Brown, B. Evans, A. Shields, R. Yazdi

3. Staff:

Thomas Omolo, Kyle Lam, Lizeht Zepeda, Samantha Carr

4. Council Liaison:

5. Guest: Denee Evans – Richmond Transportation, Mike Plestch – Chief Development Officer of Mobility Development, Rachel Heckl– Chief Operation Officer of Mobility Development

6. Minutes:

1st – A. Anderson, 2nd – G. Sewell Murphy

Presentation:

Lizeht Zepeda – Introduction as Senior Business Assistance Officer (Video Timestamp: **4:02**)

Thomas Omolo – Cannabis Equity Grant (Video Timestamp: **9:16**)

City has received \$1,319,360 in Grant Funding. Budget is almost completed and will be signing grant document by end of the week. Next steps include working with SCI Consulting Group to administer a fee study. Will be going to City Council to amend ordinance to increase commercial licenses to more than 0. Will also begin processing of soliciting services from technical services providers and creating application for potential grantees.

Measure U Concerns – Commissioner Sewell-Murphy (Video Timestamp: **27:05**)

Commissioner Sewell-Murphy read her email about possible devastations of Measure U for business that provide jobs and economic benefits to Richmond workers and voters. Inquired if it's advisable for Mayor and City Council to receive an advisory letter from EDC as a whole body. Motion passed to draft a letter. Policy Committee will also meet with Commissioner Lee.

EDC Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair (Video Timestamp: **49:24**)

Commissioner Ahmad Anderson has been elected unanimously as Chair for EDC.

Committee Reports:

Policy (Video Timestamp: **53:20**)

Policy Committee has been outlining strategies and priorities for the year; including attracting and retaining businesses in Richmond.

Community Engagement (Video Timestamp: **1:00:18**)

Subcommittee would like to continue discussion of how Measure U is impacting business. Subcommittee could interview business.

Taste of Richmond

No Update at this time.

Cannabis (Video Timestamp: **1:01:20**)

Subcommittee will reach out to Thomas about the grant funding and will meet with Thomas.

Sustainability: Businesses/Industrial Hemp & Expo/Assessment (Video Timestamp: **1:02:03**)

Subcommittee asked about Blue and Green New Deal and potentially work they can help. Currently doing research about expo.

Report from City Council: No report received

Staff Reports:

Finance Department:

No Updates.

Transportation – Denee Evans – Richmond Transportation, Mike Plestch – Chief Development Officer of Mobility Development, Rachel Heckl– Chief Operation Officer of Mobility Development
(Video Timestamp: **1:08:02**)

Transportation Department has received many grants for sustainable mobility. New Electric Vehicle shuttle that will be launching soon. There is currently electric bikes around the city for use. Will also launch electric car share with about 10 hubs around the city. Invited EDC for Beta Testing for Car Share.

City Manager's Office (Video Timestamp: **1:17:30**)

Samantha Carr presented on SB 1383 and introduced the recyclemore.com to learn more about SB 1383 and its changes, who it affects, and other relevant information.

Mayor's Office

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

Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts Presentation: (Video Timestamp: **1:21:22**)

Cordell Hindler reminded commissioners that terms are coming up at the end of the month. Thomas read Cordell Hindler's comment inviting the Commission to the Richmond Rotary Club meeting at the Richmond Country Club on March 11 at 12:30 PM with lunch provided; performance of Anton in Show Business and Contra Costa Civic Theater

7. Next meeting: April 13, 2022

8. Adjournment: 12:57 PM

