

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

April 13, 2022

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:34 AM on April 13, 2022, via Zoom webinar.

Call to Order 11:34 AM by Chair, A. Anderson

1. Roll Call:

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

2. Absent:

R. Yazdi

3. Staff:

Thomas Omolo, Kyle Lam, Lizeht Zepeda, Samantha Carr

4. Council Liaison:

5. Guest:

6. Minutes:

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

Presentation:

Thomas Omolo – Cannabis Equity Grant (Video Timestamp: 5:45)

Working on RFP to identify groups who are able to support and help with equity business applicants. SCI Consultant group has started a fee study and looking at the ordinance as it stands. Next steps will be to update the ordinance to increase the number of equity licenses. Will bring any public comments to EDC. Will begin drafting a DRAFT ordinance amendment.

Lizeht Zepeda – Updates on Economic Development Group and Other (Video Timestamp: 22:54)

- EDWG met on April 6th. The staff will be working to change the meeting time to increase attendance and engagement.

- SF Business Times – Staff has been working with SF Business Times to create a supplemental for 2022. Currently working to coordinate next steps of gathering storylines and identifying

business who would like to participate in the ad space of the supplemental.

- Sarah Kirk of HR&A discussed next steps of local branding. Staff is currently working on draft RFP for a graphic designer. Will be finalizing draft RFP and collecting submittals by June or July.
- Micro-grant – County microgrant program will be open. The grant is \$2500 for 465 businesses in Contra Costa County. Program and website will be released in the future with the process.
- Buy Local Campaign (BluDot.io - Finalized agreement with BluDot.io (software that as a repository, directory, and database of business))

Taste of Richmond – Yay or Nay (Video Timestamp: 41:00)

Discussed if Taste of Richmond will be held this year. Currently on Juneteenth there is a similar event going on. Commissioner Evans discussed to hold on Taste of Richmond until 2023.

EDC Elections for Vice-Chair (Video Timestamp: 42:34, 1:27:25)

Nomination for Commissioner Evans. Commissioner Willis took name off the running. Results as Commissioner Evans as the new Vice-Chair

Wesley Alexander – East Bay EDA, Innovation Award (Video Timestamp: 45:10)

Wesley Alexander not in attendance. Lizeht Zepeda discussed that two Richmond businesses has been nominated.

Committee Reports:

Policy (Video Timestamp: 46:33)

Policy Committee has sent out letter(s) about recommendation of policies and strategies and has been working with HR&A.

Community Engagement (Video Timestamp: 58:15)

Subcommittee will be starting to conduct work on Measure U and will be going door to door to small business to educate businesses on Measure U.

Taste of Richmond (Video Timestamp: 1:01:40)

No Update currently. Kickoff meeting can be planned around September.

Cannabis (Video Timestamp: 1:04:05)

Subcommittee discussed about CORE program of Sacramento, CA as a roadmap/guide in which Richmond can use for its own equity program. Subcommittee will work with Thomas Omolo for further work.

Sustainability: Businesses/Industrial Hemp & Expo/Assessment (Video Timestamp: 1:09:25)

Subcommittee asked about Blue and Green New Deal and potentially work they can help. Currently doing research about expo. Found that a lot of focus of sustainability expos include networking and education to businesses about sustainability. Subcommittee has discussed that

it can be a virtual or hybrid event. Discussed about a survey to gauge interest and input on sustainability in businesses in Richmond.

Report from City Council: No report received

Staff Reports:

Finance Department: (Video Timestamp: 1:15:51)

Finance Department in attendance. Thomas Omolo reported that the City has raised about \$3 million in Measure U funding which is approximately 43% of the amount. A lot of big retailers have begun starting to pay. Renewal notices were sent out last week.

City Manager's Office (Video Timestamp: 1:23:20)

Blue Green New Deal contract has been finalized on April 5th. Next steps will be community outreach and engagement meetings.

Mayor's Office

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

Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts Presentation: (Video Timestamp: **1:28:35**)

Thomas read Cordell Hindler's comment inviting the Commission to a Richmond Rotary Club meeting at the Richmond Country Club on May 6th at 12:30 PM with lunch provided; Cordell will be working with youth council to fill vacancies; promoted Richmond Moves, a new program in Richmond for electric vehicle ride share.

Ayoka Medlock-Nurse shared event of roller-skating at 1414 Harbour Way for \$10 dollars by Rich City Rollers.

Cordell mentioned that Shasa Curl is the new City Manager and is currently working with youth council to get EDC vacancies filled.

7. Next meeting: May 11th , 2022

8. Adjournment: 1:08 PM