

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

June 8th, 2022

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:36 AM on June 8th, 2022, via Zoom webinar.

Call to Order: 11:36 AM by Chair, A. Anderson

1. Roll Call:

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

2. Absent:

D. Wear, R. Yazdi

3. Staff:

Thomas Omolo, Lizeht Zepeda

4. Council Liaison:

5. Guest:

Sarah Kirk

6. Minutes:

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

Presentation

Lizeht Zepeda – Economic Development Working Group/Business Spotlight (Video Timestamp: 7:00)

Bludot is currently up and running, business will be reached out via Bludot.

Currently reaching out to the four businesses nominated for the East Bay EDA Innovation Award. Have not received any responses.

Catherine Selkiri – Matrix Emergency Services Study

Not in attendance.

Sarah Kirk (HR&A) – Business Focus Group Participants for ARPA Funding (Video Timestamp: 14:26)

HR&A Advisors currently working on a Community Needs Assessment to identify areas to allocate ARPA funding. Currently working with Contigo Communications to launch a series of outreach efforts to understand who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID 19 and how the city should be spending its APRA funds to meet Community needs. Looking from help with EDC to conducting outreach. Will be hosting focus groups.

Committee Reports

Policy (Video Timestamp: 28:30)

Continuation of conversation around policies, communication, and engagement to lift up business and making sure there are funds to support the efforts. Orrian Willis stated interest in being Lead for subcommittee.

Community Engagement (Video Timestamp: 33:04)

No update currently from the subcommittee. The city has hired a business license investigator. Thomas will connect the business license investigator with the Subcommittee.

Taste of Richmond (Video Timestamp: 35:19)

No Update at this time. Kickoff meeting can be planned around September.

Cannabis (Video Timestamp: 35:50)

Subcommittee has a meeting scheduled. Khalil Ferguson of United CORE Alliance will be in attendance as United CORE Alliance has currently received a grant focused on expungement. Will be discussing expungement in relation to Cannabis-related crimes. Will also discuss the CORE program of Sacramento, CA as a roadmap/guide in Richmond can use for its own equity program. City is currently working with SCI Consulting on a fee study. Thomas has completed an RFP for technical assistant providers to provide services to grantees.

Sustainability: Businesses/Industrial Hemp & Expo/Assessment (Video Timestamp: 52:01)

Commissioner Murphy introduced document highlighting the purpose, framework, expenditures, and vision for the Expo. The subcommittee emphasized the importance of the inclusion of youth in the expo. Discussed potential locations and setups for the expo.

Report from City Council: No report received

Staff Reports

Finance Department (Video Timestamp: 1:05:33)

The city has hired Jesson DeLeon, Business License Field Investigator. Role is to be a liaison between the city and the business community. Finance department will be sending out business renewal letters. Late fee amnesty program approved by City Council will end on June 30th, 2022. Late fees will start incurring on July 1st, 2022. Finance department is continuing to hire new staff and increased hours at the cashier desk to provide better customer service. As of

June 1st, 2022 the city has collected over \$6 million dollars of Measure U revenue, 50% of business has paid their tax bill (90% of midyear budget)

City Manager's Office (Video Timestamp 1:22:10)

Thomas Omolo has accepted a position with Hayward Area Recreation and Park District and working with city staff to transition EDC related tasks and roles.

San Francisco Business Times insert of highlighting Richmond business will be tentatively out in September 2022, in alignment with Manufacturing Day. Considering adding a guide to starting a business in Richmond in Spanish and English.

Microbusiness grant is still available. Flyer included in English and Spanish has been distributed.

Status of Surplus Properties is currently a work in progress.

Mayor's Office (Video Timestamp: 1:31:28)

Four vacancies in the Economic Development Commission.

Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts Presentation: (Video Timestamp: 1:33:43)

Thomas read Cordell Hindler's comment inviting the Commission to El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on June 22nd, 2022. RSVP due by June 17th, 2022.

7. Next Meeting: July 13, 2022

8. Adjournment: 1:14 PM