

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

March 8th, 2023

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:48 AM on March 8th, 2023, via Zoom webinar.

Call to Order: 11:48 AM by Chair, A. Anderson

1. **Roll Call:**

A quorum was present with the following commission members: A. Anderson, A. Portillo Knowles, K. Lynch, G. Sewell Murphy, O. Willis, D. Wear, D. Heiss, R. Yazdi, R. Lee, A. Huie, E. Thompson, C. Kenney

2. **Absent:** B. Evans, D. Heiss, A. Nurse

3. **Staff:** Lizeht Zepeda, Nannette Beacham

4. **Council Liaison:** Cesar Zepeda

5. **Guest:** Justine Burt

6. **Minutes:**

1st – G. Sewell-Murphy, 2nd – D. Wear

Presentation

Nannette Beacham – New Economic Development Director

Introduction of Nannette Beacham; New Economic Director

Taste of Richmond – Location, Budget and Proposal

Commissioner Portillo-Knowles discussed quotes for The Craneway Pavilion. Prior to Commissioner Portillo-Knowles joining the subcommittee, the two quotes were \$52,000 and \$37,000. Commissioner Portillo-Knowles was able to receive a new quote with a stipulation of reserving only 45 days prior to the event. The new quote would be \$8000 and include stage, audio, chairs, table, and personnel costs. Reasons for Craneway includes less permitting, free parking lots for attendees, a central location, accessibility for public transit (ferry, bus, and BART). A free option is Hilltop. Historically, Taste of Richmond has also been at Rigger's Loft. A third option is the auditorium. Subcommittee is expecting an attendance of 1000 people. Vote tabled for future meeting. Subcommittee will refine details on location and budget, in addition to income and sponsorship for the event.

Committee Reports

Policy/Green Blue New Deal

Policy subcommittee did not have meeting last month. Justine Burt provided an update on the Green Blue New Deal and areas in which Richmond can benefit and be involved such as jobs in offshore wind energy.

Community Engagement

Commissioner Wear wrapped up with the Neighborhood Councils for disseminating the Green Blue New Deal survey. Commissioner Wear has met with Councilmember Zepeda about outreaching and canvassing the needs of local and small business.

Taste of Richmond

Update above.

Cannabis

No update from subcommittee. City staff has interviewed consultants of the RFP/RFQ and are currently checking references. City staff will be making a recommendation to City Council in April.

Sustainability: Businesses/Industrial Hemp & Expo/Assessment

Commissioner Sewell-Murphy discussed working with Lizeht setting up strategies for distribution of the proposed survey. Lizeht discussed options such as mailing survey with business license mailers, emailing survey through list serves and mailing lists, and posting online. One consideration for mailing is the cost and expenditure of postage and printing. Councilmember Zepeda discussed having the survey with the newsletters of the neighborhood council. Commissioner Huie discussed option of working with high schoolers in the Digital Media Academy.

Report from City Council: Councilmember Zepeda discussed importance of buying and shopping local. Recommended business to update their contact information in order to have more Richmond business for bids.

Staff Reports

Finance Department

Finance department has distributed the 2023 Business Renewal Notices. They are currently processing the 2022 Rental Renewals. The 2023 Rental Renewal Notices have not been distributed as the department will be going to council for further instructions and directions.

City Manager's Office

No updates

Mayor's Office

Staff from Mayor's Office discussed their day-to-day duties. The Mayor has met with community stakeholders and community leaders. The Mayor's Office has been working to staff commissions. Mayor will be visiting the Port alongside councilmembers.

Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts Presentation:

Commissioner Kenney discussed upcoming CoBiz events including a Women's Day Celebration.

Lizeht Zepeda read Cordell's comment: The commission is invited to the Point Richmond Business Association Luncheon on March 29th, 11:30 PM at Baltic Kiss.

The commission is also El Cerrito Rotary Club Pasta Feed on March 25th, 5:30 at El Cerrito Community Center.

Cordell also mentioned his role in filling vacancies in the commission.

7. Next Meeting: April 12, 2023

8. Adjournment: 1:00 PM