

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

January 11, 2023

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:37 AM on January 11, 2023, via Zoom webinar.

Call to Order: 11:37 AM by Chair, A. Anderson

1. **Roll Call/Attendance:**

A quorum was present with the following commission members: A. Anderson, B. Evans, D. Wear, G. Sewell-Murphy, J. Lee, K. Lynch, D. Thompson, A. Huie, A. Portillo-Knowles, A. Medlock-Nurse

2. **Absent:** D. Heiss, R. Yazdi, O. Willis

3. **Staff:** Lizeht Zepeda

4. **Council Liaison:**

5. **Guest:** Stephen Baiter, Justine Burt

6. **Minutes:**

(1) December Meeting Minutes with changes

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

Presentation

East Bay Economic Development Alliance – Stephen Baiter

Stephen Baiter presented on the East Bay Economic Development Alliance and the work and purpose of the organization.

East Bay EDA is an independent nonprofit with more than 30 years serving the region and works to support East Bay economic development, working with both public, private, and nonprofit partners. Highlights of the East Bay Region: Population is 2.85 Million, with East Bay population increased by 300,000 in the past decade; East Bay added 42,500 jobs between October 2021 to October 2022. East Bay Forward Report was published and reports information about the evolving East Bay, post pandemic outlook, priorities for economic recovery and prosperity, and economic profiles of East Bay subareas.

Conditions and Trends Accelerated by the Pandemic: (1) Systemic economic and health disparities. (2) E-commerce trends are shifting land use demand, storefront tenancing, with

different outcomes for businesses. (3) Housing affordability challenges. (4) Small business struggling during pandemic restrictions.

Transformative Impacts of the Pandemic: (1) Remote work transforming demand for office space, services in office districts, transportation, and housing. (2) Widespread adoption of digital strategies to replace activities that once occurred in person. (3) Enhanced regulatory flexibility. (4) Creation of one time and/or ongoing funding.

Currently, there are more opportunities for manufacturing than in many decades. Each manufacturing job produces an additional 5- jobs in the regional economy. Resilient East Bay initiative (\$840000 CARES Act Recovery Assistance Grant) supports East Bay region by providing support to small to mid-sized businesses in manufacturing, transportation, distribution and logistics, and biosciences/life sciences.

Submission for Chair and Vice Chair – Lizeht Zepeda

Commissioners will contact Lizeht Zepeda about voting and submissions for Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Committee Reports

Policy/Green Blue New Deal

No update at this time. Justine Burt will be working with the subcommittee.

Community Engagement

No update at this time.

Taste of Richmond

Commissioner Evans shared draft plan for Taste of Richmond event for 2023. Draft proposal include proposed date, time location, event purpose, budget, potential partners, outreach strategy, and responsibilities of EDC/Fiscal Sponsor. have been communicating with Commissioner Heiss about ideas for 2023 event. Subcommittee will be meeting and will provide updates and information in the January meeting.

Cannabis

Commissioner Medlock-Nurse was a guest at Texas A&M and discussed cannabis policy. and NACB (National Association of Cannabis Business) contacted Commissioner Medlock-Nurse about their survey for Richmond and cannabis business/industry/policy in Richmond. Proposed cannabis expo has been narrowed down to be in Richmond or Mendocino County. Commissioner Lynch discussed the December 20th City Council Meeting about the reinstatement of the Richmond Compassionate Care Collective who lost their license and sued the city. Topic of the meeting included increasing the number of licenses in the city and how the ordinance currently has a cap on licenses.

Sustainability: Businesses/Industrial Hemp & Expo/Assessment

Commissioner Sewell-Murphy asked commission for feedback and comments on the proposed sustainability expo survey. Commissioner Lynch provided feedback about asking a question

after #1 for type of business, provide categories for business (ie. Manufacturing); a question after #6 asking about awareness of the Green Blue New Deal. Commissioner Sewell-Murphy is currently working on ideas on distributing the survey. Proposed ideas include publicizing survey online. Commissioner Evans will be providing subcommittee with some methods and ideas on distribution.

Report from City Council: No report received.

Staff Reports

Finance Department

No update at this time.

City Manager's Office

No Update at this time.

Mayor's Office

No update at this time.

Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts Presentation:

Cordell Hindler discussed attending the Contra Costa mayor conference and talked about having Danny Wan from the Port of Oakland speak at the next EDC meeting. Cordell Hindler also talked about his surprise for the commission and will be unveiling it next month.

Lizeht Zepeda read Cordell's written comments: 1) Commission is invited to the El Cerrito Chamber Luncheon on January 25th, 11:30 AM, at Los Moles Beer Garden. 2) Cordell will speak with the Youth Council about remaining vacancies in Economic Development Commission.

7. Next Meeting: February 8, 2023

8. Adjournment: 1:14 PM