

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

February 8, 2023

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:37 AM on February 8, 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, K. Lynch, D. Thompson, A. Huie, A. Portillo-Knowles, D. Heiss, O. Willis

2. **Absent:** R. Yazdi, A. Medlock-Nurse, J.Lee

3. **Staff:** Lizeht Zepeda

4. **Council Liaison:** Cesar Zepeda

5. **Guest:** Justine Burt

6. Minutes:

(1) January Meeting Minutes with changes

1st – D. Thompson, 2nd – G. Sewell-Murphy

Presentation

Offshore Wind – Justine Burt

On December 6th, the Bureau of Oceanic Energy Management (BOEM) held an offshore wind energy lease sale auction, for 5 areas on the Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Morro Bay and Humboldt. Four of the purchasers are based in Europe, one is based in United States. Federal government would like to see 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030, which will bring on potentially 77,000 green jobs such as ocean mapping, supply chain development, boat building, safety, and training. California governor would like to see 5 gigawatts of offshore wind energy in California by 2030. Current goals are for California to develop 20-25 gigawatts by 2045. Richmond has a lot to offer and provide and is positioned to be able to receive funding to help with leveraging Richmond and its community with offshore wind.

Submission and Election for Chair and Vice Chair – Lizeht Zepeda

Chair Anderson and Vice Chair Evans were elected and had not completed a full term. Election will be moved to a further date. City staff will be reviewing bylaws about terms.

New Economic Director – Nannette Beacham

Lizeht Zepeda discussed that the City has a new Economic Director, Nannette Beacham.

Committee Reports

Policy/Green Blue New Deal

Policy subcommittee has been meeting monthly at CoBiz to discuss policy agenda items. Most recent meetings have had a focus on the Green Blue New Deal. Subcommittee has met with Aspen Institute, Nannette Beacham (Economic Development Director), Tamara Walker (Deputy Community Services Director – Employment & Training), Justine Burt, and other individuals and groups. Commissioner Willis discussed that the commission should consider a few things regarding Richmond being considered and positioned for any federal government investments and the Justice40 Initiative (goal that 40% of overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved and overburdened by pollution), such as investment in Brownfield revitalization, the Inflation Reduction Act, and more. Bloomberg currently has a new set of funding and is working with various cities to help with grant proposals; Commission and City should find someone to work with Bloomberg.

Community Engagement

Commissioner Wear has been soliciting the survey on behalf of Justine Burt. Commissioner Wear contacted all 26 neighborhood councils in Richmond via email, phone, and in-person about the survey of efforts in term of the Green Blue Deal. Currently there are 125 respondents, the goal is 300 respondents. Neighborhood councils have responded that they will be sending out the survey.

Taste of Richmond

Lizeht Zepeda gave an update on behalf of the subcommittee. The subcommittee had a meeting and is currently exploring the idea of collaboration with the Ferry Fest event. Subcommittee has started meeting bimonthly, Potential recommendations for location include the plaza at City Hall, the Craneway Pavilion, parking area of the ferry.

Cannabis

Commissioner Lynch asked Lizeht Zepeda about any updates on increasing dispensary numbers. Lizeht Zepeda discussed that the City Staff has a consultant that will be providing data. Commissioner Lynch was reached out by Cooperation Richmond, which would like to partner and work with the EDC to support the community implementation of the cannabis social equity plan. Cooperation Richmond works with populations specifically those who are formerly incarcerated, providing training, jobs, and community. Yes Nature to Neighborhoods has also

reached out to seek support. Their program, TREES: Teaching Racial Environmental Empowerment Series, work with TAY (Transitional Aged Youth) to teach about impact of substance use and war of drugs. The young adults learn healthy coping strategies, raise community awareness on the issue of substance use, and working with community partners. They are currently working on their own presentation of recommendations to City Council and would like to also connect and present to the EDC. Lizeht Zepeda mentioned that the recommendation process for a consultant will happen in March.

Sustainability: Businesses/Industrial Hemp & Expo/Assessment

Commissioner Sewell-Murphy shared survey, reflecting Commissioner Lynch’s feedback and suggestions. Commissioner Lynch provided feedback about asking a question after #1 for type of business, provide categories for business (ie. Manufacturing); Lizeht Zepeda provided suggestions for categories. A new question was added about the Green-Blue Deal project. Commissioner Sewell-Murphy asked if it was appropriate to ask the question. Commissioner Sewell-Murphy also asked a question about where the survey can be returned to. Lizeht Zepeda provided the City Manager’s Office as an option to mail the survey too. Commissioner Wear proposed the idea of sending the survey as an email. Lizeht Zepeda included other outreach efforts such as listserves. Commissioner Sewell-Murphy is also gathering a list of funding sources.

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 received word that all the commissioners will be meeting in person for the March 2023 meeting. Cordell Hindler also discussed having college students and youth in the Economic Development Commissioner. Cordell Hindler will be reaching out to Mayor Martinez office to see if it is possible to reach out to Contra Costa College to have more young people on the commission. Cordell also discussed that it was his idea for the Economic Development Director onboard.

Lizeht Zepeda read Cordell's written comments: 1) The Commission is invited to the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce Mixer on February 10th 2023, 5:30 PM at 514 Lounge, 11236 San Pablo Avenue; 2) commissioners are also invited to a 2nd Mixer on February 15th, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at Burger IM, 174 El Cerrito Plaza.

7. Next Meeting: March 8, 2023

8. Adjournment: 1:08 PM