

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

December 14, 2022

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:35 AM on December 14, 2022, via Zoom webinar.

Call to Order: 11:35 AM by Vice Chair, B. Evans

1. Roll Call/Attendance:

A quorum was present with the following commission members: B. Evans, D. Wear, D. Heiss, O. Willis, G. Sewell-Murphy, J. Lee, K. Lynch, D. Thompson, A. Huie, A. Anderson,

2. **Absent:** R. Yazdi, A. Medlock-Nurse, A. Portillo-Knowles

3. **Staff:** Lizeht Zepeda

4. **Council Liaison:**

5. **Guest:** Emma Crow-Willard, Arthine Cossey van Duyne

6. Minutes:

- (1) October Meeting Minutes with changes to reflect Commissioner Sewell-Murphy report
- (2) November Meeting Notice

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

Presentation

New Commissioner Introduction – Commissioner Allison Huie, Commissioner Don Thompson

RichmondOWNS and Brownfield Revitalization – Aspen Institute (Emma Crow-Willard, Arthine Cossey van Duyne)

Brownfield Revitalization - Richmond is a community negatively impacted by Brownfields. Recommendation for City Manager's Office to create a Brownfield Revitalization Initiative (BRI) to take advantage of increased funding and technical assistance from federal and state government. Brownfields contribute to blight due to expense, scrutiny, and capacity to clean up sites. Currently there is over \$1 Billion in funding available to address Brownfield sites. Aspen created a operational plan for Richmond with goals of the initiative to improve Health, Community, and Wealth in Richmond thru inventorying and prioritizing brownfields, taking advantage of existing funding, supporting cleanup initiatives, attracting development, and marketing priority sites. Next steps including applying for ECRG grant, connecting with Jay

Banfield at All Homes (allhomeca.org) to join Bay Area economic development conversion, connecting with James Weinberg at FUSE (fusecorps.org) to find fellow(s) to launch the initiative.

RichmondOWNS – Idea for City to create, RichmondOWNS, a franchisee training program to develop locally-owned anchor companies. RichmondOWNS will sit within the same ecosystem of RichmondWORKS and RichmondBUILD, with assistance for RichmondLEAP. Richmond is a majority minority city, however business ownership by people of color and economic output is 27% and 6% respectively. Franchises have low startup costs, proven business models, and more success securing financing. Franchises also provide higher wages and better benefits. Aspen has drafted an operational plan. Funding can come thru ARPA for the pilot program, WIOA, and other grants.

Cannabis Equity Program (CEP) Staff Process – Lizeht Zepeda

Staff is currently reviewing RFQ to select consultant for the program. Commissioner Lynch asked staff to notify commission when presenting to city council about the RFQ as commissioners involved in the review process can provide their rationale behind their scoring.

New Subcommittee (Green/Blue New Deal) – Commissioner Orrian Willis

Proposal of a subcommittee revolving on the Green/Blue New Deal previously presented and discussed in Economic Development Commission meeting. Subcommittee intends to support economic development, economic revitalization, green jobs, and businesses with focus on mitigating climate change. Commissioner Evans proposed subcommittee to be housed under the Policy subcommittee.

November Tour of 7 Stars Dispensary – Commissioner Don Thompson

Commission took a tour of the 7 Stars' dispensaries, warehouse, and facilities. Commission had discussions about cannabis business in Richmond including economics of having a cannabis business, competitors, regulatory compliance challenges, and more.

Committee Reports

Policy

No update at this time. Currently waiting for updates and information.

Community Engagement

Commissioner Wear will be meeting and working with Justine Burt (Green/Blue New Deal) in January.

Taste of Richmond

Commissioner Evans 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 Lynch discussed importance of the upcoming City Council meeting item about the increasing the number of dispensaries in the City and how it can impact or affect current equity work. Subcommittee is working on statement for the City Council meeting.

Sustainability: Businesses/Industrial Hemp & Expo/Assessment

Commissioner Sewell-Murphy will be resubmitting the survey regarding the expo to the commission. Commissioner Sewell-Murphy discussed attendance at a Just Water faith-based seminar/conference event and was invited to join a task-force after discussing current work and Richmond's work in sustainability in an event evaluation. Task-force is on environmental justice and climate change. The task force is aware of Richmond's current work on sustainability and how they can help. Commissioner Sewell-Murphy informed task force of industrial hemp and how it can help mitigate climate change and will be providing task force with more information and will be writing an article.

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 welcomed the new commissioners. Cordell discussed that previous discussed projects in other economic development commission meetings will be on the next City Council meeting. Cordell suggested using timers for meeting.

Lizeht Zepeda read Cordell's written comments: 1) Mayor has mentioned the Commission in the October 25th city council meeting. 2) Commission is invited to the New Year's Mega Mixer with the Bay Front Chamber of Commerce on January 19th, 5:30 – 7:30 PM, at The Grand at Bayfront in Hercules.

7. Next Meeting: January 11, 2023

8. Adjournment: 1:17 PM