

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

June 14th, 2023

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:30 AM on June 14, 2023 in the Richmond Room located at 450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA.

Call to Order: 11:38 AM by Chair, A. Anderson

1. **Roll Call:**

A quorum was present with the following commission members: A. Anderson (Chair), B. Evans (Vice-Chair), D. Heiss, C. Kenney, K. Lynch, J. Lee, A. Portillo-Knowles, G. Sewell-Murphy, E. Thompson, D. Wear, O. Willis

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

3. **Staff:** Lizeht Zepeda, Nannette Beacham, Sabrina Paras (CivicSpark Fellow)

4. **Council Liaison:** Cesar Zepeda

5. **Guest:** Gayle McLaughlin, Justin Burt

6. **Minutes:**

1st – B. Evans, 2nd – E. Thompson

Presentation

Richmond Green-Blue New Deal Workforce Development Plan (Sabrina Paras – CMO, Justine Burt)

On July 6, 2021, the City Council adopted a resolution to support the process of developing a Richmond Green-Blue New Deal. The City is committed to ensuring that future investments benefit the livelihoods of Richmond residents and the health of their families. This project has three primary deliverables. The first is the development of a Richmond Green-Blue New Deal Workforce Development Plan, which will be the subject of our input session after this presentation. The Implementation Plan is the second deliverable, followed by the Community Toolkit. The goal of these deliverables is to catalyze at least 1,000 new green-blue jobs for Richmond residents that build a just, equitable, resilient, and sustainable future. Outreach and community engagement work has been done with progress including over 400 responses for a community survey, three community workshops, 10+ informational presentations and more. The project team is considering battery manufacturing, solar manufacturing, all electric building retrofits, offshore wind turbine manufacturing, vertical farming, rescuing surplus prepared food, coastal restoration. Presenters conducted an activity to identify green-blue priority projects.

EDC Chair/Vice Chair Nominations

Lizeht Zepeda handed out paper ballots.

Committee Reports

Sustainability: Businesses/Industrial Hemp & Expo/Assessment

Commissioner Sewell-Murphy discussed attending a workshop that was informative. She discussed receiving an update from City Staff on the survey. She is working with City Staff on a survey to assess and collect feedback about sustainability and an expo in Richmond. Lizeht Zepeda discussed distribution methods and ways to disburse the survey. City staff will share the survey with the other commissioners in advance of the next meeting. Commissioner Sewell-Murphy also discussed creating and preparing educational materials for kids to learn as well.

Vice Mayor McLaughlin expressed her interest, excitement, and support in the Sustainability Business Expo and Industrial Hemp. She mentioned that the Expo ties into the Green Blue New Deal and Economic Development as a whole. She mentioned that during a Goal Setting Meeting she mentioned that the city should help to facilitate and make the Sustainability Expo happen. She stated that because the Expo will be hosted by the Economic Development Commission, the commission would be able to get things such as event fees reimbursed.

Policy/Green Blue New Deal

Vice-chair Evans discussed work with Justine Burt on the Green-Blue New Deal and training programs such as Roots of Success, an environmental literacy and job training program. Subcommittee is in process of identifying training providers to also target the K-8th grade demographic and to also have Roots of Success or a similar program in Richmond. Commissioner Kerby Lynch asked about Brownfield Revitalization, which was introduced in a previous EDC presentation by Aspen. Lizeht Zepeda discussed that the city has in the past received money to address Brownfields and will connect committee with Lina Velasco about Brownfields.

Community Engagement

Commissioner Wear discussed working with Justine Burt on the Green Blue New Deal and presented to City Council about offshore wind development.

Taste of Richmond

Vice chair Evans provided an update. Taste of Richmond is currently a month away. Currently there is \$19,000 in pledges from sponsorships, which is over goal of around \$15,000. Currently there are five vendors. Tickets are being sold. Commissioner Portillo-Knowles discussed meeting with Councilmember Bana to get her district involved. BART is a main sponsor and will be advertising on Richmond lines. Commissioner Portillo-Knowles will be sending out information to share, distribute, and advertise the event.

Cannabis

Commissioner Lynch discussed waiting for update on consultant selection. Lizeht Zepeda discussed having commissioners meeting with the cannabis ordinance consultant. Commissioner Lynch will be meeting with Cannabis Equity constituents.

Report from City Council:

Staff Reports

Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts Presentations:

Lizeht Zepeda read Cordell's comment:

- The Economic Development Commission Is Invited to the EL Cerrito Chamber Mixer, June 21ST, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM Yummy Sushi 195 EL Cerrito Plaza
- Richmond Rotary Club Weekly Meeting, June 23rd 12:30 PM, Richmond Country Club 25.00 Dollars for Lunch, Mayor Eduardo Martinez Will Discuss Priorities for the Fiscal Year
- Cordell is Working on a Project IN conjunction with Economic Development

Commissioner Kenney discussed activation of the food hall in Downtown Richmond.

7. Next Meeting: July, 12, 2023

8. Adjournment: 1:00 PM