



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 11:30AM – 1:00PM

Richmond Room, 450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, California

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Call to Order: 11:50 am by Chair Wear [*a quorum was not reached at start time*]

2. Roll Call & Check In

A quorum was present with the following commission members:

Present: G. Sewell-Murphy, D. Thompson, C. Jackson, C. Kenney, D. Wear, O. Willis, K. Lynch

Absent: A. Huie, A. Portillo-Knowles, R. Yazdi, J. Lee

Council Liaison: Cesar Zepeda

3. Approval of Minutes

January Meeting Minutes

1st – C. Kenney, 2nd – O. Willis

Chair Wear thanked City staff for the preparation of the minutes and proposed that the minutes for the future include attendance, topics discussed, and decisions. Commissioner Sewell-Murphy remarked that people make important statements in the meetings, and as the founding Executive Director and Secretary for the Mayor's Art Council, she knows how things are supposed to go. She discussed the importance of using minutes for research purposes. City staff proposed the commission ask for a volunteer secretary to record the lengthy, detailed minutes. This topic will be discussed and voted on at the March 13, 2024 meeting.

4. Report from EDC Chair

- a. We meet today on Valentine's Day, a time to celebrate people and places that move our hearts. Today at the EDC, I want to note this occasion acknowledging all of us around this table who are putting our hearts and minds and bodies toward the economic development of our fine city. Together our efforts will hopefully move other hearts as well. I've also brought some chocolate hearts to share with you all just to seal the deal.
- b. Meanwhile, though we had a lot of exuberance after our last meeting and a number of people volunteered to work on the new goals, deliverables, measures of accountability, and timeline for the 2024 EDC plan, we could not meet due to Brown Act regulations. More than three people meeting on Commission business is not allowed without the establishment of a new subcommittee. So that will be on our agenda today.

5. Old and/or New Business

- a. Standing Committee

Commissioner Wear proposed the establishment of a 2024 Goal-Setting Committee. The purpose of the committee is to set goals, have measures of accountability, and deliverables for the EDC. The committee will be using the discussion material, goals, thoughts, and insights gathered from the January EDC meeting working session to decide and focus efforts for the upcoming year. In accordance with the Brown Act, if the committee meets quorum, it must notify the public of the meeting, be held in the public, and record meeting minutes. It was then decided that rather than set a new Standing Subcommittee, which the commission was not yet ready to do, Chair Wear

suggested we simply re-focus the Policy Subcommittee. The Policy Subcommittee is scheduled to meet before the next EDC meeting, so we'll try that. Orrian, chair of the Policy Subcommittee agreed.

Report from City Council:

Councilmember Zepeda provided a brief report. The December 6th, 2023, Council Meeting allocated ARPA funds for small business support. Staff are currently working on RFP/RFQs. The 23rd St Merchants Associations has reached out and are interested in funding and working with the city and committee to reshape the 23rd St area. The Arts Corridor and Richmond Chamber celebrated their 100th year anniversary. Glydways is interested in coming to Richmond, specifically the Hilltop Area, for testing. They are a company that has autonomous vehicles that drive riders non-stop from point A to point B. Glydways has been bidding over the country, including first mile-last mile from Antioch to Brentwood, and San Jose Airport to Downtown San Jose. The Richmond City Council will also be hearing a presentation on the update about Sutter Health and the impact when Berkeley's Alta Bates Hospital closes.

Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts

Cordell Hindler submitted information on an upcoming event: The EDC is Invited to the Richmond Rotary Crab Feed on March 16th, 2024, at 7:00 pm at Salesian High School; cost is \$70.00/person.

Cordell also requested that EDC meetings be held in hybrid format as some other cities allow.

Commissioner Kenney invited the EDC to **the Equity for Black Women & Girls Initiative Gala** at the Hilton Concord on March 1st.

Commissioner Sewell Murphy mentioned the passing of former Chair, Ahmad Anderson's mother, former Mayor Irma Anderson. A public memorial in her honor will be held on February 29th at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium. A memorial will also be held at Easter Hill United Methodist Church.

6. Next Meeting: March 13th, 2024, 11:30 PM

7. Adjournment: 1:01 PM