



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, May 14, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Milpitas City Hall, Committee Conference Room

Attendants: Chair Peoples; Vice Chair Brahmbhatt; Commissioners Ablaza, Ahuja, Bayangos, Bhambhra, Tsao, and Wettenstein; Acting Planning and Neighborhood Services Director, Acting City Engineer/Public Works Director Kathleen Phalen, and Recording Secretary Veronica Bejines

Excused Absence: Commissioners Grilli, McEvoy, C. Nguyen, and M. Nguyen,

Absent: Commissioner Suri

I. Flag Salute

Chair Peoples called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call and Approval of Alternates

Chair Peoples called for Roll and Alternate Commissioner Ahuja was seated as part of the voting body.

III. Announcements

Mayor Esteves announced that the budget for the next fiscal year was approved and the City will be contracting out as well as laying off employees. He said the Chamber was funded via the Redevelopment Agency and wants to bring something back to the City Council to continue to provide support to the Chamber.

Vice Chair Brahmbhatt arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Chair Peoples announced that the state's deficit went from 9 billion to 16 billion and pointed out that the landscape on I-237 looks like a hazard because of overgrown weeds. Mayor Esteves said he would make a complaint to the City Manager.

Commissioner Ablaza expressed his concerns about the new HOV lane in Milpitas and Mayor Esteves said he also had concerns and wrote a letter to the VTA General Manager who responded that they are looking into it. The Mayor said he is also inviting VTA to do a presentation to the City Council.

Mayor Esteves pointed out that the City of San Jose is removing all of their Boards and Commissions but Milpitas is not. He said he is thinking about removing some of the City Council Subcommittees.

Commissioner Wettenstein said two companies are getting relocated because of the BART project and thought that staff might be able to help them look for new buildings to relocate to.

Vice Chair Brahmbhatt said he attended two conferences in Sacramento supporting electrical vehicle charging stations and said the state is allocating \$175 million towards electric vehicle charging stations. He said the City needs to consider opportunistic sites and it will not cost anything. He has some information for staff but it will have to go to BAAQMD for approval.

Chair Peoples asked Vice Chair Brahmbhatt to e-mail the Commission with more information and Mayor Esteves said he would bring it up to the City Manager.

Felix Reliford announced that the City Manager had a family commitment this evening and will not be attending tonight's meeting.

IV. Public Forum (Please *limit comments to 3 minutes*)

There were no speakers.

V. Approval of Agenda

Motion: to approve the agenda.

Motion/Second: Ablaza/Wettenstein

Motion carried by a vote of:

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

VI. Approval of Minutes – April 9, 2012

Motion: to approve the April 9, 2012 Unapproved Minutes as submitted.

Motion/Second: Wettenstein/Tsao

Motion carried by a vote of:

Ayes: 8

Noes: 0

VII. Old Business

A. Subcommittee Updates

Commissioner Ablaza announced that Diana Barnhart was supposed to put together a focus group with brokers and facility managers and Mr. Reliford said he would look into it and report back to the Commission. Chair Peoples suggested that this item be moved to Other Business for discussion.

VIII. New Business

A. Single-Use Carryout Bag Study

Acting City Engineer/Public Works Director Kathleen Phalen presented a PowerPoint Presentation about the Single-Use Carryout Bag Study.

Commissioner Ahuja asked how long would it take to change over to the new ordinance and Ms. Phalen said staff would recommend a year but it would be up to the City Council.

Chair Peoples asked if the ban on carryout bags would be applied to bags used for fruit and Ms. Phalen said no.

Commissioner Tsao asked if the ordinance would apply to restaurants and Ms. Phalen said staff is proposing that it apply to stores excluding restaurants and would apply to retail.

Ms. Phalen pointed out that the City Council has not adopted the ordinance yet, but there was a good discussion about it at the April 17th City Council meeting. The City Council

received the bag study report and agreed to participate in the San Mateo County EIR and will continue to monitor and evaluate a model ordinance to be prepared by San Mateo County.

Vice Chair Brahmbhatt asked if there were any discussion on substitutes for plastic such as corn starch or carbon based materials. Ms. Phalen said that corn starch is a viable alternative for some plastics but has not risen as a viable use for a carryout bag.

Commissioner Tsao asked if any other cities in Santa Clara County adopted the bag ban and Ms. Phalen said just San Jose and Palo Alto.

Commissioner Wettenstein asked about bio degradable bags and Ms. Phalen said she doesn't know enough about it.

Vice Chair Brahmbhatt felt that a countywide effort would be much better.

Chair Peoples asked how many households are in Milpitas and Mr. Reliford said 19,000.

Vice Chair Brahmbhatt pointed out that some restaurants are not providing disposable plates and styrofoam.

B. Transit Area Park Land Acquisition

This item is being continued to the June 11, 2012 meeting.

C. Mandarin Small Business Workshop

Commissioner Tsao announced that there will be a free two hour Mandarin seminar on how to start a business on Wednesday, May 30, 2012 at 9 a.m. at the Cupertino Quinlan Community Center. There will also be an 8 hour Mandarin seminar on November 7, 2012 at Cupertino Community Hall for \$50.00 per person. She is also requesting that the City of Milpitas host the 2013 spring seminar. Mayor Esteves said to let staff know the date to reserve the room ahead of time and also suggested that Ms. Tsao call the Milpitas library to reserve a room there.

Commissioner Wettenstein said he would bring it up to Chamber members and see if they will be willing to do the training seminar in Mandarin.

Commissioner Ahuja asked what is the outcome of people attending the seminar and Commissioner Tsao recalled one graphic artist who attended a seminar is doing really well with his new business.

Motion: to support the How to Start a Business seminar in Milpitas for 2013, for Asian American business training centers.

Motion/Second: Wettenstein/Ahuja

Motion carried by a vote of:

Ayes: 8
Noes: 0

Vice Chair Brahmbhatt said it would be nice if the program was in English.

Commissioner Tsao said she will not be here for the June meeting but will report back in August.

IX. Other Business

Commissioner Ablaza pointed out that Diana Barnhart was supposed to put together a focus group back in December with venture capitalists, hotels, stakeholders, developers, and brokers and facility managers from Cisco, KLA Tencor, and Sandisk. Chair Peoples said he would meet with the City Manager to see if it is reasonable.

Commissioner Ahuja asked what the purpose of the focus group is and Chair Peoples said to get direction of what companies are looking for so Milpitas can be marketed, or to get information out to businesses to make it easier to move businesses to Milpitas, or what is problematic about Milpitas.

Chair Peoples announced that he will not be in attendance at the next meeting.

X. Adjourn- The Commission adjourned at 7:35 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Monday, June 11, 2012.