



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, September 9, 2013 at 6:08 p.m.

Where: Milpitas City Hall, Committee Conference Room

Attendants: Councilwoman Montano, Chair Peoples, Vice Chair Brahmbhatt; Commissioners Ablaza (6:07pm), Bhambhra, Holthaus (6:10pm), Howard, M. Nguyen, Tsao, Wettenstein, and Wong; PN&S Director Steve McHarris, Principal Housing Planner Felix Reliford, and Recording Secretary Rachelle Currie

Excused Absence: Commissioners Ahuja; Grilli; C. Nguyen

I. **Flag Salute**

Chair Peoples called the meeting to order at 6:08pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Roll Call and Approval of Alternates**

Chair Peoples called for Roll. Vice Chair Brahmbhatt, Commissioners Ablaza, Ahuja, Grilli, and C. Nguyen are not present. Alternate Commissioner Wong was seated.

III. **Announcements**

Councilwoman Montano reported that unfortunately the Chamber is postponing their International BBQ event, but there is hope it can be brought back since it is much needed to be able to bring the community together.

Commissioner Wettenstein added onto Councilwoman Montano's comment that the Chamber's Board of Directors' after having looked at the support from the community, none from the city even though a loan was offered, a decision was made to regretfully postpone the event until next year. He also informed everyone that Carol Kassab is no longer holding the CEO position and the rental for the Chamber's space went up from \$1,200-1,600. It is important that the community have a Chamber so it was decided to move the festival into 60th anniversary next year. The festival needs to be planned more in advance which can be possible now since it has been moved to a later date. The city has offered some possible space of about 500 sq. ft. at a non-profit organization which is being considered at the moment. It was a difficult decision, but it is important to look out for the longevity of Chamber and avoid merging with other cities. At the moment, the City should target small businesses focused on Milpitas as their location. He ended his announcement by clarifying the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce is not a 501(c)(3). Chair Peoples explained what a 501(c)(3) is. Vice Chair Brahmbhatt asked if ICC could help Chamber in some way besides financial.

Chair Peoples mentioned previous discussions on podcars. Councilwoman Montano said that Milpitas, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, NASA, and North San Jose are open to pursuing the possibility of establishing a JPA (Joint Powers Authority). Planning Director McHarris stated that the project is a big request and asked if it is already going through City Council. Chair Peoples responded that they are just brainstorming for the future, and not negotiating for the City. Commissioner Ahuja asked if there are any evaluations from various cities and Chair Peoples said yes and they are on-going evaluations. Vice Chair Brahmbhatt said a Vehicle Technology Organization meets once a month and would like to know if that can be held here at City Hall. Mr. McHarris asked to email that request to the Recording Secretary.

No announcement from staff.

IV. **Public Forum (Please *limit comments to 3 minutes*) – None**

V. **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Wettenstein moved to approve the agenda as submitted and seconded by Commissioner Ahuja.

Motion carried by a vote of:

Ayes: 9
Noes: 0
Absent: 4 (Ahuja, Brahmbhatt (stepped out), Grilli, C. Nguyen)
Abstain: 0

VI. Approval of Minutes – August 12, 2013

Motion: to approve the August 12, 2013 Unapproved Minutes as submitted.

Motion/Second: Ablaza/Holthaus

Motion carried by a vote of:

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Absent: 4 (Ahuja, Brahmbhatt (stepped out), Grilli, C. Nguyen)

Abstain: 0

VII. New Business

A. China Silicon Valley Presentation by its Representatives

Chair Peoples clarified that Sister City Huizhou's visit is on October 15 not September 17, 2013.

Chair Peoples gave some background on issue. Review on organization, China Silicon Valley (CSV), and their goals. The invitation to participate with Sisters Cities that wanted to do an Economic Development component, Huizhou in China in particular was mentioned. Issue was discussed and approved by City Council to be able to provide help to the Sister Cities Commission. Discussions on how EDC can best help promote the business trade between EDC and sister trade ensued

Holthaus added that in June CSV held a grand opening at the City Hall of San Jose, where Mayor Esteves attended. China Silicon Valley representatives were introduced.

Stephanie reports China Silicon Valley Organization's plan to potentially set up collaboration. They have been working on this organization concept for over a year, with City of San Jose being one of their founding members. Stephanie informs that their goal is to help facilitate, promote, and the investment exchange between China and Silicon Valley. They are working with the City of San Jose, Milpitas, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Campbell, and others to set up a business partnership. There is a huge demand on China's side in housing and commercial businesses, startup & development projects, and other projects. She also mentioned being a one stop shop, meaning they have account, advising, and legal services at their organization. Chair Peoples asked about their annual budget. Stephanie reported that it is a membership basis. They have three level sponsorships (\$10,000, \$25,000, and \$50,000) and only work with corporate. Everyone is volunteer their time, so budget is about \$50,000- 100,000. Money at the time is all coming from organization member, who includes City of San Jose, accounting firms, Pillsbury, etc. Tania added that one of their goals is to build a bridge of opportunities between China & the US and at the same time offer bargains from the US to China. More discussions followed on organization information and what it can accomplish.

Chair Peoples asks how to promote and show their interest. Councilwoman Montano suggested for the commission to create a Milpitas brochure that shows economic interest. Goals would also have to be established to have both sides participate. Stephanie states that the value of their organization will eventually be recognized and recommends not limiting to just one city (Huizhou) and expanding to more cities in China.

B. Finalize List of Subcommittees and Subcommittee Members

Chair Peoples stated it is necessary to know who is in all the subcommittees. It was determined that there are three subcommittees. There are four members for each subcommittee.

- 1) Business Retention – Wettenstein, Tsao, Holthaus & Chair Peoples
- 2) Business Attraction –Brahmbhatt, Ablaza, C. Nguyen
- 3) Special Projects – Tsao, Howard, Holthaus, Ahuja, M. Nguyen

Motion: to meet next week (Tsao, Wettenstein, and Chair Peoples) to discuss EDC brochure.

Motion/Second: Tsao/Wettenstein

Motion carried by a vote of:

Ayes: 10

Noes: 0

Absent: 3 (Ahuja, Brahmbhatt (stepped out), Grilli, C. Nguyen)

Abstain: 0

VIII. Old Business

A. Subcommittee Updates

Discussed during New Business.

IX. Other Business – None

X. Upcoming Events – None

X. Adjourn – Commissioner Tsao moved, and Commissioner Ablaza seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm to the next regular meeting on October 14, 2013. The motion carried unanimously.