



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, February 10, 2014 at 6:05 pm

Where: Milpitas City Hall, Committee Conference Room

Attendants: Councilwoman Montano, Chair Howard; Vice Chair Ahuja; Commissioners Ablaza, Bhambhra, Brahmhatt, Holthaus, C. Nguyen, M. Nguyen, Tsai, Wettenstein; PN&S Director Steve McHarris, Principal Housing Planner Felix Reliford, and Recording Secretary Rachele Currie

Excused Absence: Commissioners Grilli, Peoples, Wong

I. **Flag Salute**

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

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

Chair Howard called for Roll. Commissioners Peoples and Wong are not present; Commissioner Holthaus was seated.

III. **Announcements**

Councilwoman Montano reported that the Pacific Mall Project was approved by the City Council at its last Council meeting. She also mentioned that she is the liaison for the Joint Powers Authority of the Santa Clara County Library System and shared to everyone about a website called www.referenceUSA.com which is a great resource for businesses and residential information.

Commissioner Wettenstein reported that January 26 was an open house event at the Chamber of Commerce. There is an upcoming Biomedical show in San Jose Joint Venture. He also mentioned that during the City of Milpitas' 60th Anniversary Family Day event last January 26, he volunteered along with Planning Commissioners in this conference room and was asked questions about City of Milpitas by event attendees. He noticed that Planning Commissioners have name tags on representing their commission and added that it would have been nice if he and other EDCommissioners had one on too.

Commissioner Ablaza would like to request for Commissioners to have name tags. Commissioner Tsai asked staff to check/poll commissioners who have been serving for quite sometime that perhaps they still have their old name tags.

Planning Director McHarris reported that the Billings Chevrolet area development is going on. A comment about school capacity was mentioned and Councilwoman Montano interjected that schools are not at capacity per her conversation with Commissioner Grilli; however high school capacity is a different story. Chair Howard asked staff if the project is slated to build 10,000 residential units. Mr. McHarris said he is referring to the total program and not just one specific project.

- IV. **Public Forum (Please *limit comments to 3 minutes*)** – Milpitas Chamber of Commerce President Liz Ainsworth asked the commission if they could help the Chamber to ask City Council in funding the dining/lodging guide book which hasn't been updated since 2010. Chamber of Commerce Board has discussed three options: a) do not create the guide book and solicit City be a member; b) create a tri-fold document for members only; or c) create similar to the 2010 guide book but no funding and request this commission to see if this is viable for Council approval for funding assistance. The cost is \$2,970 for 2000 copies.

Chair Howard asked Ms. Ainsworth if these guide books are to be sold or given away; she responded given away to hotels and he added why not sell them to hotels. Commissioner Holthaus shared an idea about instead of selling why not ask the businesses being advertised in the book to come up with the funding source. Ms. Ainsworth said that it's a struggle to ask the businesses for this request. Commissioner Ablaza asked for cost analysis of each business listed on the book and Vice Chair Ahuja added if there is a tracking system as to how many people are using this guide book.

A motion was made by Commissioner Holthaus to agendaize this item at the next Commission meeting, seconded by Vice Chair Ahuja. All in favor except for Commissioner Wettenstein who abstained.

V. **Approval of Agenda**

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

Motion carried by a vote of:

Ayes: 10
Noes: 0
Absent: Grilli, Peoples, Wong
Abstain: 0

VI. Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2014

Motion: to approve the January 13, 2014 Unapproved Minutes as submitted.

Motion/Second: Ablaza/Holthaus

Motion carried by a vote of:

Ayes: 10
Noes: 0
Absent: Grilli, Peoples, Wong
Abstain: 0

VII. New Business

A. Business Attraction discussion for the upcoming BART Station

Councilwoman Montano asked staff if it's true that there are merchants already available to open their business at the new station. Planning Director McHarris answered that there will be areas already built for businesses. Councilwoman Montano asked if there's a way to have Milpitas businesses to get the first priority to bid on a stall or business area. Mr. McHarris stated that he will find out the point person from BART to connect with the business people. Commissioner Ablaza inquired if the City's agreement with BART has business store discussions in it which Mr. McHarris said that he is not aware of the details of the agreement. More discussion ensued between the Commissioners and staff with no definite answers to the questions. Councilwoman Montano asked staff to have a BART representative come and answer the Commission's questions. Staff will follow-up on this for an upcoming meeting.

B. Charging Stations

This agenda item is part of subcommittee updates therefore, the discussion included charging stations, incubation centers, plug and play stations, etc. Councilwoman Montano asked what an incubation center is. Vice Chair Ahuja answered that it is a place set up to provide office space, and equipment to new businesses that are just getting started. Chair Howard was thinking out loud that developers for incubation centers are not in our radar and was wondering why. It was also brought up (as an idea) to have the Chamber's Guide piggyback with the City's mobile app.

VIII. Old Business – Discussed during the New Business Item B

IX. Other Business – None

X. Upcoming Events – Milpitas Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed @ Napredak Hall on March 7, \$50 per ticket; Rancho School Vegas Night Fundraising Event @ Napredak Hall; Milpitas Chamber of Commerce's Connection Club every 3rd Wednesday of each month at Dave & Buster's Club Room from 1130 am to 100 pm.; Community Advisory Commission's Tree-Planting Event on Feb 15, 900 am at Cardoza and Murphy Parks.

XI. Adjourn – Commissioner Ablaza moved, and Commissioner M. Nguyen seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37pm to the next regular meeting on March 10, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.