



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, November 10, 2014 at 6:00 pm

Where: Milpitas City Hall, Committee Conference Room

Attendants: Councilmember Montano, Chair Howard; Vice Chair Ahuja; Commissioners Ablaza, Holthaus, Peoples, Tsao, Wettenstein; PN&S Director Steve McHarris, Principal Housing Planner Felix Reliford, Recording Secretary

Excused Absence: Commissioners Bhambhra, Brahmbhatt, Grilli, C. Nguyen, M. Nguyen, Wong

I. Flag Salute

Councilmember Montano called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call and Approval of Alternates

Chair Howard called for Roll. Commissioners Bhambhra, Brahmbhatt, Grilli, C. Nguyen, M. Nguyen, Wong are not present; Commissioner Holthaus was seated.

III. Announcement

Councilmember Montano announced that Commissioners Grilli and Barbadillo won the November Elections. And a new Economic Development Manager was also hired.

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

Dr. John Locke of Blue Lotus Ventures, invited by Commissioner Holthaus, spoke about a potential economic development symposium that the City would want to partner with his company. Councilmember Montano asked what type of forum and Dr. Locke responded that it would be an introductory workshop. Several other questions from Commissioners came up such as: 1) dealings with EB-5 program; 2) is this their first time holding a symposium in general; and 3) do they do financial assistance. Mr. Locke responded: 1) no; 2) not the first time holding a symposium; however it's their first time trying to partner with a City; and yes, they lend money as long as it's revenue-generating.

V. Approval of Agenda

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

Motion carried by a vote of:

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Absent: Bhambhra, Brahmbhatt, Grilli, C. Nguyen, M. Nguyen, Wong

Abstain: 0

VI. Approval of Minutes – May 12, 2014

Motion: to approve the May 12, 2014 Unapproved Minutes as submitted.

Motion/Second: Commissioner Peoples / Commissioner Holthaus

Motion carried by a vote of:

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Absent: Bhambhra, Brahmbhatt, Grilli, C. Nguyen, M. Nguyen, Wong

Abstain: Tsao

VII. Old Business

A. Annual Workplan

Commissioner Peoples recommended to get all subcommittees to have 2 meetings before the January 2015 meeting. Planning Director McHarris mentioned that the Commission could schedule a special meeting in December if they so desire to discuss the workplan. Chair Howard stated that having a workplan is not to just come up with ideas but must do some leg work to see the fruition of those collaborative ideas. Vice Chair Ahuja agreed with Commissioner Peoples' suggestion for the

subcommittees to meet and added to come up with precise recommendation and bring back to both him and Chair Howard.

Motion: for the subcommittees to meet before December 8 then meet as entire Commission on January 12, 2015 to discuss and approve all or in part (with detailed recommendation) the 2015 Workplan.

Motion/Second: Vice Chair Ahuja / Commissioner Peoples
Motion carried unanimously.

B. Update from City Staff

1) BART Project

Mr McHarris briefly reviewed TASP overview with the Commission. Commissioner Wettenstein commented about the parking lot in Great Mall during the San Francisco 49ers home games. Councilmember Montano asked Mr McHarris about the location of a grocery store in the Transit Area and what size is it going to be. Planning Director McHarris showed the Commission the location from the map. He also showed a powerpoint presentation of the BART project update.

2) Pacific Mall Project

Commissioner Wettenstein asked if there's any development in the Mervyn's area to which Mr. McHarris responded that the owners are trying to repurpose the building. Commissioner Ablaza asked about the latest on charging stations within the Torgan Group project. Planning Director McHarris responded that there's no specific plan; Councilmember Montano interjected that at a previous Council meeting, Torgan Group developers said they will have charging stations. Staff will provide an update at a later date.

C. De-Brief of International Sister Cities Conference

Councilmember Montano and Chair Howard attended this year's International Sister Cities Conference held in San Jose, CA. They both reported that the international organization is changing their sister cities relationship in terms of bringing in the business aspect and cultural exchanges among its members. Councilmember Montano said that some Sister Cities members are doing cultural exchanges and encourages our Economic Development Commission can use the auspices of our own Sister Cities Commission to promote businesses.

VIII. Other Business

Commissioner Ablaza inquired about the HERO Program. Mr. McHarris said that another program (endorsed by the League of CA Cities) was adopted by the City of Milpitas in the past and did not attract participants.

IX. Upcoming Events – Commissioner Wettenstein updated everyone about the upcoming BBQ event scheduled in May 2015. He added Chamber of Commerce Mixer on December 11 from 5:00pm to 7:00 pm at the Huntford Printing Company.

X. Adjourn – Commissioner Peoples moved, and Commissioner Ablaza seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm to the next regular meeting on January 12, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.