

MINUTES
CITY OF CARSON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Carson City Hall
701 E. Carson Street
Carson, CA 90745

October 6, 2022 – 8:00 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER Chairperson Aldridge called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL Economic Development Commissioners Present: Aldridge, Apodaca, Childers, Embry, Harris, Jimenez, Kelley, Pandolfo Sparrow,
Economic Development Commissioners Absent: Wallace, Watar
Staff Present: John Raymond, Assistant City Manager of Economic Development; Saied Naaseh, Director of Community Development; LaToya Butler, Business Development Liaison
Let the record show there were five people from the public in attendance.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR
Commissioner Pandolfo moved to approve the minutes for the July 7, 2022, August 4, 2022, and September 1, 2022, regular meetings, seconded by Commissioner Kelley and unanimously carried.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS/PRESNTATIONS

None

V. PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

None

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Bylaws

Economic Development Liaison reported staff did not receive feedback from the commissioner about the bylaws.

Chairperson Ray Aldridge suggested commissioners reach out to staff if need another copy of the bylaws.

Commissioner Pandolfo reported the commission voted to remove compensation some years back. The removal should be reflected in the bylaws.

Discussion ensued.

b. Grant Programs

Assistant City Manager of Economic Development John Raymond reported Council established a grant program using the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Staff is creating marketing materials, and the program is scheduled to roll out in a couple of weeks. The grant amounts are determined by a scoring system based on the number of years in Carson, the number of employees, disadvantaged businesses, and a COVID-related decline in review. WizeHive, a vendor for grant administration, will be contracted to assist with intake and make it easier for businesses to apply.

The Commercial Façade program will target major thoroughfares such as Avalon Boulevard, Main Street, Sepulveda Boulevards, Figueroa Street, and Carson Street. Applicants must have buildings or structures commercially zoned and developed for uses permitted by the City's Zoning Ordinance. The grants range from twenty-five thousand to two hundred fifty thousand are reimbursements. The previous Community Development Block Grant-funded commercial façade improvement program was redistricted to low-income census tract areas.

Discussion ensued.

c. Stakeholder Economic Development Workshops

Assistant City Manager of Economic Development John Raymond reported part of the scope of the Economic Development Strategy Plan consultant is data gathering. Some of the representatives working on sports, entertainment, and hospitality met with some EDC commission members and businesses in July. The heavy lifting comes with a series of stakeholder meetings. The first meeting will be held on October 27, 2022, then in early December and late January. Invitations will go out early next week to stakeholders and ask them to commit to all three meetings. Staff is excited about the idea of getting good solid quantitative and expert feedback on what our economic direction can be over the next ten years.

Discussion ensued.

d. Metro Workshop at Dominguez Park – 710 Freeway

Assistant City Manager of Economic Development John Raymond reported Caltrans had tried unsuccessfully to widen the 710 for many years for various reasons. As an alternative, Metro has committed 735 million dollars for undertaking community transportation improvements within a corridor around the 710. It will start in North Lynwood and to the port of Long Beach. They have a community engagement and input through an inactive website. The core study area comes close to Alameda. Metro asked to hold a community workshop in the area closest neighborhood to 710. The workshop will be held on October 26, 2022 at Dominguez Park. They will use Walking Man for marketing the workshop.

Discussion ensued.

e. Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG) Application

Assistant City Manager of Economic Development John Raymond reported the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant is money from the EPA administered by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The program is intended to facilitate brownfield development in disadvantaged communities. DTSC has worked aggressively with the California Center for Land Recycling, the program's administrators, to encourage communities to apply for the grants. Staff applied for one ECRG grant in February and working on round two. The city is involved, but the grants benefit private property owners. The one grant received, for \$315K, was on behalf of SyWest for the project's environmental study as they go through the entitlement process. The property is located across from Porsche.

Discussion ensued.

f. Caltrans – Alameda Corridor

Assistant City Manager of Economic Development John Raymond reported in 1982, when they created the Alameda Street Coordinator, a section was deliberately omitted from the incorporation of the state highway system. The City of Carson has fought with Caltrans to incorporate it as a state highway for maintenance as it is a heavy truck corridor. Last year during the supply chain crisis, the City raised the issue with the state, who finally agreed. Caltrans has to create a package with a proposal and application and go to the California Transportation Commission. They are determining body that designates a section of Alameda to be a part of the state highway system. In the meantime, Caltrans has agreed to repave the Alameda while the application is being processed.

Discussion ensued.

VIII. PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

None

IX. COMMISSION MEMBERS ORAL COMMUNICATIONS / ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Chairperson Aldridge reported the mayor has approved commissioner business cards.

Director of Community Development Saied Naaseh reported all commissions, committees, and boards will be vacated at the end of November. Business cards will be revisited once commission appointments are made.

X. STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to the November 3, meeting.

Chairperson

Secretary