



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Albany City Hall, Conference Room/Council Chambers
1000 San Pablo Avenue
Thursday, April 7, 2016
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cheasty at 5:00 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Cain, Charles, Cheasty, Sala

Members absent: Baker, Guhl, Montagh

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. March 3, 2016

Minutes continued to the next meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

City Planner Anne Hersch announced that a fitness center will be utilizing the prior Bank of America business office on Solano Avenue that has been vacant.

Committee Member Cain announced that a café has opened in the former Tangerine café space on Solano, and that the former Monteros location is open as La Crema.

Community Development Director Jeff Bond announced that the City of Berkeley is beginning design work for the Gilman/Interstate 80 off-ramp area, and that the design could have impacts on Eastshore traffic circulation. Staff will be participating in the upcoming public meetings and planning process.

Chair Cheasty announced that he attended a meeting with Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) regarding sea level rise planning.

6. PRESENTATION

7. DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

7-1. General Plan Update

Receive presentation by General Plan Consultant Barry Miller and determine if the Committee will provide feedback to the City Council regarding the update (*1 hour*)

Consultant Barry Miller provided a presentation regarding the General Plan Update and highlighted General Plan policies related to economic development.

Policies in the General Plan would require additional work including public meetings in advance of any changes. Once the General Plan Update is adopted by the City Council staff will begin prioritizing implementation of the plan.

In 2009 an Economic Development Strategy was conducted for the City. The document identified the need for a staff person to conduct economic development work. An updated economic development study/market study that analyzes staffing needs as well as current and future conditions could be conducted.

The City Council will review the General Plan Update, with a recommendation for approval on April 18, 2016.

7-2. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations

Receive updates from the subcommittees and identify if the Committee will take any action regarding subcommittee recommendations

- a. Immediate Opportunities Subcommittee
- b. Long Range Planning Subcommittee

The subcommittees provided updates from recent working meetings. The Long Range Planning subcommittee identified a list of long term goals, including goals that mirror items included within the General Plan Update including increased building height in commercial areas, parking structures, a BART station at Solano/Masonic Avenue, and a Citywide shuttle.

The Committee agreed a representative should address the City Council regarding items of priority for the Committee as related to the General Plan.

MOTION:

Moved by Sala, seconded by Charles that the Committee recommend the Council prioritize implementation of the General Plan with regard to economic development interests including the concept of a BART station at Solano/Masonic Avenues, establishing two medium sized parking structures in the commercial area, and an increase on height limits along San Pablo Avenue. Unanimously approved.

Chair Cheasty will report the Committee action to the City Council as part of the Council meeting on April 18, 2016 where the General Plan Update will be reviewed.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next meeting: May 5, 5 pm.

Regular monthly meeting schedule: first Thursday of each month at 5 pm.

May Meeting Agenda Topics:

Discussion with Arts Committee regarding Art in Commercial Areas

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.