



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
City Hall Council Chambers  
1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA

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**MINUTES**

Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:00pm

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Montag at 5:02pm.

Members Present: Committee Member Cain, Committee Member Charles, Committee Member Cheasty, Committee Member Goldman, Committee Member Sala, Committee Member Tiedemann, Chair Montag

Members Absent: None.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 7, 2019**

Approved.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**4-1. Update on June and July Meetings**

The Committee decided to change their next meeting to June 20<sup>th</sup> and skip the meeting in July.

**4-2. Foam Creations Vacancy**

Anne Hersch provided an update on a new vacancy at the Foam Creations building on Solano Avenue.

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

**5-1. Presentation on Commercial Properties for Sale**

Hersch gave a presentation updating the Committee on commercial properties for sale and lease on Solano, San Pablo, and Cleveland Avenues. Staff has worked with the various agents involved and is closely watching the listings.

**6. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**6-1. Review and Approve Summary of Comments on Solano Avenue Compete Streets Planning Process**

The Committee discussed the comment summary and suggested minor edits:

- Support further study of back-in angle parking and engage seniors in the process
- Support further study of potential for one or two protected cycletracks for safety, and identification of potential impacts on parking
- Ensure cohesion with lower (“western”) Solano Avenue, and focus on authentic branding of the district
- Only implement projects that can be maintained
- Increase public art like murals and interactive sculptures



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- Encourage sidewalk dining
- Establish gathering and performance spaces and a place for a farmer's market
- Ensure delivery trucks can make turns and have loading zones
- Consider establishing rideshare pickup zones
- Minimize loss of parking
- Research proposed center islands further to ensure they accommodate all users
- Minimize the effect of construction on businesses by earmarking funds for advertising that businesses are still open and keep sidewalks open as much as possible during construction
- Balance maximizing parking availability and safety while supporting all modes of travel
- Focus on bike safety and bike and scooter parking
- Place trees strategically and favor species with tall canopies to minimize obstruction of business signage

**Motion:** Motion by Committee Member Cheasty, seconded by Committee Member Tiedemann to recommend that Council append the current process to allow for a robust public process to provide further input on the new proposed plan.

AYES: Committee Member Cain, Committee Member Charles, Committee Member Cheasty, Committee Member Goldman, Committee Member Sala, Committee Member Tiedemann, Chair Montag

NOES: None.

Absent: None.

**Motion:** Motion by Committee Member Cheasty, seconded by Committee Member Goldman to recommend the comments made by the Committee be incorporated into both plans for public review.

AYES: Committee Member Cain, Committee Member Charles, Committee Member Cheasty, Committee Member Goldman, Committee Member Sala, Committee Member Tiedemann, Chair Montag

NOES: None.

Absent: None.

Public comment was received by Preston Jordan, Jennifer Hansen-Romero, Ian Mcleod, and Ken McCroskey.

**6-2. Approve 2019-2021 Work Plan**

The Committee discussed their draft work plan and suggested Vice Chair Sala present it to Council on May 20<sup>th</sup>. If she's unavailable, Committee Member Cheasty and Committee Member Cain can present.

**Motion:** Motion by Committee Member Cain, seconded by Committee Member Charles to approve the draft work plan.

AYES: Committee Member Cain, Committee Member Charles, Committee Member Cheasty, Committee Member Goldman, Committee Member Sala, Committee Member Tiedemann, Chair Montag

NOES: None.



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Absent: None.

**6-3. Discussion of Business Survey Goals**

The Committee discussed potential survey questions and suggested no more than 10 questions. Committee Member Sala suggested creating multiple surveys geared toward different audiences, and Committee Member Cain expressed concern about low response rates.

**6-4. Subcommittee Reports**

Business Improvement District: Cheasty  
None.

Farmer's Market: Charles, Sala

Private lots present challenges, so they recommended closing off the northwest side of Key Route at Solano Avenue as a central location for a market. They surveyed other markets in the area and determined Wednesdays and Fridays are the best days. They recommended incorporating small scale entertainment and food trucks and emphasizing prepared food.

Marketing & Outreach: Montagh, Tiedemann

They recommend focusing on two separate outreach campaigns, one for business attraction and one for retention. They suggest focusing on customer attraction in the future.

Arts Committee Liaison: Andrea Goldman was appointed as the Arts Committee Liaison.

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Committee discussed future agenda items, including:

**7-1.** Update on Complete Streets Plan Revisions

**7-2.** Farmer's Market Presentation

**7-3.** Discuss Marketing & Outreach Priorities

**7-4.** Review Business Survey Questions

**8. NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, June 20, 5:00pm  
City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Ave.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16pm.