



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

MINUTES

Thursday, March 7, 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 Brown, Committee Member Cain, Committee Member Cheasty, Committee Member Sala, Committee Member Tiedemann, Chair Montag

Members Absent: Committee Member Charles

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 7, 2019

Approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tod Abbott spoke in favor of sugar sweetened beverage tax funds being used for the construction of a public restroom.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4-1. 1175 Solano Avenue Update

Christopher Tan provided an update – the owners are looking for a daytime use, such as a bakery.

4-2. 987 San Pablo Avenue Update

Tan provided an update – The Volvo shop owner retired and it will become a tire shop.

4-3. Albany Subaru Upgrade

Tan provided an update – They have completed façade improvements to the service center and begun upgrades to their showroom.

4-4. Hotsy Totsy Anniversary

Tan provided an update – The Hotsy Totsy recently celebrated their 80th anniversary in Albany.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5-1. Presentation on Recent Changes in Commercial Parking Supply

Jeff Bond provided a presentation showing an inventory of recent changes in commercial parking supply. There has been a loss of street parking spaces but a net gain of 211 spaces due to additions of residential and customer parking. The Committee asked to continue the conversation at a future agenda.

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

6-1. Discussion and Possible Motion on Solano Avenue Compete Streets Planning Process



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Jeff Bond provided a presentation on the draft Solano Avenue Complete Streets Plan for eastern Solano Avenue. Committee Members provided detailed feedback on the plan. In general, they found it well thought out.

Comments included:

- 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, consider relying on businesses to maintain landscape features
- Increase public art like murals and interactive sculptures
- Establish gathering and performance spaces and a place for a farmer’s market
- Ensure delivery trucks can make turns and have loading zones
- Concerns about center islands
- Minimize the effect of construction on businesses
- Balance maximize parking availability and safety while supporting all modes of travel
- Focus on bike safety and bike and scooter parking
- Trees should be strategically placed and have tall canopies to not obstruct business signage

Public comment:

Preston Jordan shared an alternate proposal with a protected bike path on the south side of the street and wider sidewalks.

Tod Abbott spoke in support of the alternate idea with a protected bike path, and said that bike infrastructure tends to increase business.

Jennifer Hansen-Romero suggested focusing on deferred maintenance before planning for big changes and requested classic street furniture so it does not look dated in the near future. She also noted the need for greater police enforcement.

Ian MacLeod spoke in support of the alternate idea with a protected bike path, but suggested adding bike paths on both sides of the street at the expense of street parking to make it safer for kids and families to access Solano businesses.

Motion: Motion by Committee Member Cheasty, seconded by Vice Chair Sala to request that staff compile Committee comments and bring them to the Committee in April for a recommendation.

AYES: Members Present: Committee Member Brown, Committee Member Cain, Committee Member Cheasty, Committee Member Sala, Committee Member Tiedemann, Chair Montagh

NOES: None.

Absent: Committee Member Charles



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6-2. Subcommittee Reports

Business Improvement District: Brown, Cheasty
Committee Member Sala will provide funding information.
Farmer's Market: Charles, Sala
Staff to coordinate a farmer's market presentation.
Marketing & Outreach: Montagh, Tiedemann
They will bring ideas for the April meeting.
Arts Committee Liaison: Brown
Committee Member Brown met with the Chair of the Arts Committee to discuss art.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee discussed future agenda items, including a continued conversation about parking supply and the Complete Streets Plan.

8. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 4, 5:00 pm, City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Ave.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41pm.