

**Economic Development Ad Hoc Working Group Minutes
January 27, 2009**

Present: J. Lieberman, M. Atkinson, A. Cain, J. Wile, B. Pollard, N. Mayer, D. Rios-Drapkin

Public: M. McCurdy

- 1. Call to Order:** 1:48 p.m. by Mayor Atkinson
- 2. Public Comment:** none
- 3. Discussion and Possible Action on Matters Related to the Following Items:**
Report by working subgroup on business recruitment and aspects of retention
 - a) Track vacancies
 - b) Be in touch with realtors or property owners (J. Lieberman is the main Contact and Allen does added “fill-in” work; Tod does not want to be included at present). Provide public posting of vacancies when requested
 - c) Compile list of businesses or categories from business neighbors and identify and help business who wish to expand.
 - d) Clarify zoning limitations and parking limitations (subcommittee will meet with Jeff Bond)
 - e) Look at categories of successful businesses and determine good fits (Allen Cain will compile list)
 - f) Identify locally grown businesses in the Bay Area who may want to move to Albany (Darlene and subcommittee)
 - g) Continue to review how we recruit new businesses and evaluate what businesses are good fits and which businesses are not. Bring to City Council for ideas on how to gather public input.
- 4. Physical improvements and branding**
Allen Cain will meet with Arts Commission for discussion about ideas for physical improvements in Albany’s business district. Commission will determine how to be further involved.
Darlene will meet with city resident who has volunteered expertise on branding and will review written material and present information in the next meeting.
- 5. Strategic Plan for Cleveland Avenue and Eastshore Highway**
Neil presented information on all properties and vacancies at these locations. Updates will be given in the next meeting
- 6. Roles of arts and sustainability committees in medium and long range Goals**
Interest was expressed in continued broad input and long range planning beyond the work of the ad hoc group.
- 7. Future Agenda Items**
Brief updates from business retention subgroup and Cleveland/Eastshore Information with primary discussion of branding.
- 8. Adjournment: 3:15 PM**

- 9. Next Meeting: February 10, Tuesday 1:45 PM – 3 PM Community Development Office 979 San Pablo Avenue, Albany**