

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023
ATRIUM CONFERENCE ROOM – 500 CASTRO STREET
10:00 A.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Chair Pamela Baird.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Committee members Mike Kasperzak (online), Marina Keith, David Lin, Kira Pascoe, Money Singh, Merry Yen (online), Vice Chair Jamil Shaikh, and Chair Pamela Baird.

Absent: Committee member Anne Cavanaugh (excused).

Staff Present: John Lang, Economic Vitality Manager; Edgar Maravilla, Senior Planner; and Kimberley Thomas, Deputy City Manager.

3. MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes of the May 2, 2023 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting and approved as distributed.

Motion—M/S Lin/Pascoe—Carried 8-0-1; Cavanaugh absent—To approve the minutes of the May 2, 2023 meeting.

4. UPCOMING AGENDA TOPICS

- Homelessness response;
- Sister City partnerships;
- Discuss changing the timing of the meeting; and
- Vacant building activations.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Kimberly Thomas introduced herself as the Deputy City Manager who will be working closely with the Downtown Committee and staff in aiding the City Manager on activating and revitalizing Downtown Mountain View.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Planning Division staff provided an update on downtown development projects. There was only one change to the report from last month—881 Castro Street. The project is a seven-story mixed-use project with 128 units and 14,444 square feet of ground-floor commercial space.

Committee members Lin and Singh asked about Heritage tree removal for 881 Castro Street, and staff is waiting for the arborist report to determine any impacts to trees. Committee member Yen asked about the timing of the Limon Restaurant opening. A ribbon cutting is anticipated for June 22, 2023.

Public Comment: None.

No action taken.

6.2 CASTRO STREET UPDATE

Economic Development staff provided the following updates related to the Downtown Committee:

- New foliage (hanging plants) within the pedestrian mall have been implemented.
- City planters/seating areas have received more soil and irrigation upgrades anticipating new plants being added shortly.
- Music on Castro, the summer series, has been well received thus far and continues to grow each week in attendance and momentum.
- Power washing recently occurred in the parking garages and in the pedestrian mall.

Since the last Downtown Committee meeting, one new ground-floor vacancy has occurred, which was KiwiCo, operating in the 200 block of Castro Street.

Committee member Singh would like to see more foliage in the surface parking lots and trash pickup to help improve the look of downtown as people's first impression is where they park. Committee member Singh also asked about having Music on Castro occur within the 300 block as well. Staff noted similar comments from other businesses have also been heard and will share the information with the Community Services Department.

The Committee also asked about the possibility of a public restroom in downtown.

Public Comment: None.

No action taken.

6.3 **DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 WORK PLAN**

The Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Work Plan as required by City Council Policy A-23.

Public Comment: None.

Motion—M/S Kasperzak/Yen—Carried 8-0-1; Cavanaugh absent—To approve the Downtown Committee Fiscal Year 2023-24 Work Plan.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 **ECONOMIC VITALITY STRATEGY**

Economic Vitality Manager John Lang and Elliott Weiss from Community Attributes, Inc., shared with the Committee both the background of the project along with findings to date on the Economic Vitality Strategy. Staff sought feedback from the Committee on their thoughts to proposed strategies and tactics for downtown that have been initially drafted as part of the Economic Vitality Strategy.

Feedback from members of the Committee focused on improving the live entertainment process, making it easier and more streamlined than an expensive Temporary Use Permit. Currently, the City only allows live entertainment up to three nights. Another area of concern was the growth of bicycle use within the downtown pedestrian mall and how best to accommodate the parking of bicycles.

Public Comment: Bruce England with Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning, Green Spaces Mountain View, provided a few comments regarding a letter dated June 6, 2023, he submitted to the Downtown Committee members. Bruce shared how Mountain View could differentiate itself from the status quo. Many of the comments in the letter submitted speak to this. The City should consider adding public restrooms minimally to the Downtown Transit Center if not in other parts of downtown.

7.2 UPDATE ON CITY EVENTS IN 2023

Staff provided a verbal summary of the planned City events in downtown and broader Mountain View.

Committee member Singh asked if the City advertises City-sponsored events on the public kiosks in downtown or if one side of the kiosks could be dedicated to City events.

Public Comment: None.

8. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Baird shared that the next Mountain View Historical Society Walking Tour will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 25, 2023.

Committee member Lin announced the first Sunday of every month (July 1) from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., a volunteer effort, known as Keep Mountain View Clean, a Mountain View leadership program, is helping to pick up trash within downtown. The group meets at Centennial Plaza.

Committee member Pascoe mentioned the Technology Showcase being planned for July 20, 2023 on Civic Center Plaza and a panel conversation planned for July 19, 2023 at the Center for Performing Arts. The next Taste of Mountain View event is planned for June 14, 2023. The Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating the Art and Wine Festival on September 9 and 10.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

These Minutes are hereby submitted for approval by John Lang, Recording Secretary.

Approved on _____.

JL/1/CDD

819-06-06-23mn