

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING WITH NO PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION
10:00 A.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Committee members Raghav Gupta, Maria Lange, Kira Pascoe, Jamil Shaikh, Merry Yen, Vice Chair Pamela Baird, and Chair Mike Kasperzak.

Absent (Excused): Committee member Erik Cormier.

Staff Present: John Lang, Economic Vitality Manager; Tiffany Chew, Business Development Specialist; and Krisha Penollar, Associate Planner.

3. MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes of the February 1, 2022 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting and approved as distributed.

Motion—M/S Lange/Shaikh—Carried 7-0-1; Cormier absent—To approve the minutes of the February 1, 2022 meeting.

4. UPCOMING AGENDA TOPICS

- Discussion on impact of homelessness on downtown
- Upcoming in-person events in downtown
- Bike racks and beautification of bike racks
- Vacant wall murals

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC—None.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Planning Division staff provided an update on downtown development projects.

No action taken.

6.2 CASTRO STREET UPDATE

Economic Development Division staff provided an update on latest efforts along Castro Street related to the Pedestrian Mall Feasibility Study. Beginning in late March to early April, effort will be undertaken to do street cleaning, sidewalk cleaning, and tree trimming for the 100 to 300 blocks of Castro Street.

Public comment: A member of the public commented on the Art and Wine Festival being planned in downtown along with a citizen effort to do an open-streets event in the fall.

No action taken.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 PLANNING A JOINT MEETING WITH THE VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Economic Development Division staff provided an overview of how a joint meeting can occur between the Visual Arts Committee and Downtown Committee. The two committees would host a separate meeting in addition to their standing meetings where the agenda topics would be in alignment with both of their respective committee missions. The Committee discussed the following topics as of joint interest:

- Activating vacant storefront windows with art or art installations
- Art Box program for signal boxes in downtown

The general consensus of Committee members was to have a meeting toward the end of April during the day as evening meetings are challenging for members' schedules.

Economic Development staff will communicate with the Visual Arts Committee on March 9 to receive similar feedback.

No action taken.

8. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee members requested information on recent news pertaining to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) lawsuits. Economic Development Division staff provided information and clarification on ADA lawsuits as well as referenced materials related to ADA located on the Chamber of Commerce website for small businesses.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

TC/6/CDD

822-03-01-22mn