

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023
MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER (MAPLE ROOM) – 201 SOUTH RENGSTORFF AVENUE
8:00 A.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by Chair Pamela Baird.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Committee members Anne Cavanaugh, Mike Kasperzak (virtual), Marina Keith, David Lin, Kira Pascoe (arrived at 8:08 a.m.), Merry Yen, Vice Chair Jamil Shaikh, and Chair Pamela Baird.

Absent: Committee member Money Singh (unexcused).

Staff Present: John Lang, Economic Vitality Manager; Amanda Rotella, Economic Development Strategist; Lieutenant Crowl, Mountain View Police Department; Jasmine Ortega, Management Fellow; and Kimberly Thomas, Deputy City Manager.

3. **MINUTES APPROVAL**

The minutes of the October 3, 2023 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting and approved as distributed.

Public Comment: None.

Motion—M/S Kasperzak/Keith—Carried 7-0-2; Pascoe, Singh absent—To approve the minutes of the October 3, 2023 meeting.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT—None.**

5. **UPCOMING AGENDA TOPICS—None.**

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Economic Development staff provided an update on downtown development projects. Project No. 5 in the staff report, 705 West Dana Street, was approved by the City Council on November 13, 2023 and will move to building entitlements. Project No. 11, 298 Castro Street (Nick the Greek), building permit has been issued. Project No. 14, 171/175 Castro Street Provisional Use Permit, was approved by the Zoning Administrator on November 8. Project No. 19, 650 Castro Street, submitted a facade modification permit. Project No. 13 needs to be removed as it is complete. Chair Baird shared that No. 16 will be reviewed by the Development Review Committee on December 6.

Committee member Kasperzak asked about The Robert Green Company Hotel Project. Staff response: the planning entitlements for that project expired November 27, 2023. The City and Robert Green are still discussing impacts/implications.

Public Comment: None.

No action taken.

6.2 CASTRO STREET UPDATE

Economic Development staff provided the following updates related to the downtown:

- Castro Street resurfacing project update; and
- Patio License Program update.

Public Comment: Peter Katz asked about potential delays from rain on the Castro Street resurfacing project. Staff is waiting on an update from the Public Works team on this.

No action taken.

6.3 PUBLIC SAFETY IN DOWNTOWN

Lieutenant Crawl provided an update on public safety in the downtown, including:

- We are seeing an increase in auto burglaries during the holidays. Will ramp up patrol and work on messaging (e.g., remove valuable items, etc.).

- Have Police Department Ambassador Program that will continue this year.
- Increased patrols at the Library.
- Working with unhoused populations and connecting them with services.
- Encourage community to not intervene in in-progress incidents: “Your safety is more valuable than your stuff.”

Kimberly Thomas, Deputy City Manager, shared that there is a City of Mountain View Homelessness Response strategy in development, which will include a needs assessment and outreach to the business community.

Committee members had feedback and questions about available databases of unhoused individuals in Mountain View, communication mechanisms between downtown businesses and the Mountain View Police Department (MVPD), and MVPD’s coordination with other regional jurisdictions.

Public Comment: Peter Katz shared that the Downtown Business Association has been proactively promoting who to contact and when businesses should call the Police Department.

No action taken.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 PERSONAL DELIVERY DEVICE PILOT

NOTE: Item 7.1 was considered out of agenda order before Item 6.1.

Economic Vitality Manager John Lang presented the history of the pilot program. The previous pilot program sunsetted, so there are not any parameters for continued operations in Mountain View. Moving forward, the augmentations being proposed for the new pilot program include:

- Prioritize Mountain View businesses;
- Require physical presence in Mountain View;
- Require human handler during the first six months;
- Devices that can keep up with bike speed to be allowed in the bike lanes; and
- Adding additional performance measures, to understand impacts, conflicts, etc.

Staff will return to Council with a recommendation that includes feedback from the Downtown Committee and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Committee members had feedback and questions about program data, data privacy and retention, how the device will interface with the public, and how Personal Delivery Device (PDD) businesses will interface with the City.

Public Comment: Peter Katz asked: “What is the problem we are trying to solve?” and “What is the public benefit of this program?”

Staff response: The way consumers procure goods is changing; there is also an equity focus of getting goods to people who may not be able to access stores, and there is a sustainability benefit of reduction in trip generation.

No action taken.

7.2 ART IN DOWNTOWN

Economic Development staff shared about Anita Rosen’s goal to fundraise and create a nonprofit to identify artists and work with property owners to get more murals in the downtown.

Chair Baird shared that she is modeling her nonprofit after an organization in Los Altos (www.artslosaltos.org).

Committee members asked about potential themes for murals and expressed interest in murals that celebrate the history of downtown. Committee members also asked about the approval process for murals. Staff shared that they are working with the Visual Arts Committee (VAC) to develop recommendations for streamlining the process.

Public Comment: Peter Katz recommended that the VAC should be part of the development review process related to murals.

No action taken.

7.3 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2024

As part of standard Council Policy K-2, all committees need to approve a schedule for the upcoming year.

Public Comment: None.

Motion—M/S Shaikh/Keith—Carried 8-0-1; Singh absent—To approve the 2024 meeting schedule.

8. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee member Yen attended a regional training on the Freedom of Information Act and reminded fellow Committee members that texting or email forwarding to other Committee members about City business could trigger Brown Act violation.

Economic Vitality Manager John Lang shared that the Chamber is a de facto member of the Downtown Committee. Peter Katz will be the Chamber representative moving forward.

Committee member Pascoe shared that she is leaving the Chamber. Today is her last day as a Committee member of the Downtown Committee.

Chair Baird shared that the Historical Society will be doing a walking tour December 17 at 2:00 p.m.

Committee member Pascoe shared:

- The great Elf Hunt will take place in downtown December 16 through December 31.
- There will be a gift-wrapping event on December 16 at 285 Castro Street to benefit the Day Worker Center.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

These Minutes are hereby submitted for approval by Amanda Rotella, Recording Secretary.

Approved on _____.