

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011

9:00 AM

MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B

Members Present: Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*
Councilmember John G. Clamp, *District 10*

Members Absent: Councilmember Mary Alice P. Cisneros, *Chair, District 1*

Staff Present: Pat DiGiovanni, *Deputy City Manager*; A.J. Rodriguez, *Deputy City Manager*; Leticia Vacek, *City Clerk*; Rene Dominguez, *International & Economic Development Director*; Frank Miller, *Aviation Director*; Ed Davis, *International & Economic Development Assistant Director*; Ellen Erenbaum, *Aviation Assistant Director*; Jed Maebius, *Office of the Mayor*; Barbara Ankamah, *Economic Development Manager*; James Henderson, *Economic Development Manager*; Lori Houston, *Economic Development Manager*; Griselda Sanchez, *Assistant City Attorney*; Ray Rodriguez, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Sunshine Thacker, *Landbridge Partners*

Call to Order

Councilmember Clamp called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens to be heard.

2. Approval of Minutes of the March 23, 2011 Economic and Community Development Council Committee Meetings

Councilmember Chan moved to approve the Minutes of the March 23, 2011 Economic and Community Development Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, the Committee addressed Item 4.

4. Briefing on EB-5

Presented by Rene Dominguez, Director, International and Economic Development

Adrian Perez reported that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) indicated that the Governor could not pass authority to Mayors to determine Targeted Employment Areas (TEAs) but the statute dictates that authority remain under the auspices of the State. He stated that the authority had been passed to Mayors over the past 15 years and that the USCIS indicated that there would be no penalty for past practices. He noted that from this point forward; authority to determine TEAs would not be provided to local governments. He stated that staff had been working with the Governor's Office to identify limitations of authority under the statute. He added that the Governor's Office was evaluating options to proceed with validating TEAs. He stated that an applicant could still submit a TEA map showing that an area was 150% above the national average and that the Governor's support would not be required. Mr. Perez indicated that the program was in a holding pattern until notified by the State on how to proceed.

In response to Councilmember Chan, Mr. Perez replied that Regional Centers were approved by the USCIS and that the State of Texas would support TEAs.

Mr. Perez stated that staff would report back to the Committee in June.

5. Briefing and possible action on EDIF Policy Guidelines (Update)

Presented by Rene Dominguez, Director, International and Economic Development Department

Ed Davis provided the recommended changes to the Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF) Guidelines. He stated that the proposed changes would align EDIF Guidelines with the Inner City Reinvestment/Infill Policy (ICRIP) adopted by Council and align administration of the Inner-City funding under the EDIF Guidelines.

Councilmember Lopez asked of eligibility requirements. Mr. Davis responded that mixed-use, market-rate residential, and solar farms were not required to meet wage requirements for tax abatements or grants because they are not driven by jobs.

6. Briefing on High Profile Contracts and evaluation criteria for Procurement process

Presented by Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer

Ben Gorzell provided staff recommendation that the focus for input from the City Council on contract initiatives continue to be those items that are high profile. He stated that contract initiatives defined as high profile would be more likely to include potential associated policy items. He outlined the current process and several enhancements.

Councilmember Clamp asked if a checklist of contract policy issues would be developed and provided to the City Council. Mr. Gorzell responded that developing a checklist had not been considered because policy issues vary. Councilmember Clamp recommended providing a checklist relative to the high profile contracts.

3. Consideration of applicants for 23 slots to the Convention and Visitors Commission as follows: 1 slot Airline representatives; 2 slots Arts and Cultural Community; 5 slots General Community; 1 slot representing the Market Square Association; 1 slot Mayoral Appointee; 1 slot representing Paseo Del Rio Association; 1 slot representing the San Antonio Area of Tourism Council; 6 slots representing the San Antonio

Presented by Rene Dominguez, Director, International & Economic Development Department

Leticia Vacek referenced the category list attached and provided staff's recommendation that the Committee recommend 23 applicants to the Convention and Visitors Commission for appointment. She stated that the applicants were being reappointed with the exception of three (3) new appointments.

Councilmember Chan asked of the application process and spoke of concerns expressed by several applicants that were not appointed. Ms. Vacek responded that the applicants were notified that they had not been appointed and that their applications would be retained on file for one year. Councilmember Chan referenced the Municipal Golf Association-San Antonio appointment process and suggested allowing all applicants an opportunity for interview. Ms. Vacek indicated that the Quality of Life Council Committee had recommended reappointment of the current MGA-SA Members and that it was the direction of the Quality of Life Council Committee Chair not to have the applicants that were not being considered attend the meeting. Councilmember Chan commended Ms. Vacek and staff for their work and asked of Ms. Vacek's recommendation for a solution to the issue. Ms. Vacek recommended requesting the Mayor's Office to appoint a Committee of the current City Council to address such issues regarding Boards and Commissions. Pat DiGiovanni recommended communicating the issue to the Governance Committee for further direction. Councilmember Clamp requested that Ms. Vacek provide her recommendations to the Governance Committee.

In response to Councilmember Lopez, Ms. Vacek stated that a list of at-large appointments would be provided to the entire City Council.

Councilmember Chan moved to recommend the 23 reappointments and appointments as recommended by staff. Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

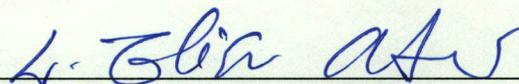
Councilmember Clamp recessed the Committee into Executive Session at 10:02 a.m. He reconvened the meeting at 10:52 a.m. and announced that no action had been taken.

7. Consideration of items for future meetings:

There were no items discussed.

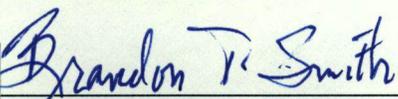
8. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.



Mary Alice P. Cisneros, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk