

Economic Opportunities Commission

Wednesday January 17, 2018

2525 Mount Vernon Ave.

Alexandria VA 22301

In Attendance

Canek Aguirre
Thomas Gibson
Hope Nelson
Sal Biberaj
June Shih
Maani Stewart
Geoff Caldwell
Kelly Stone
Genevieve Fields
Lesla Gilbert

Excused

Racquel Williams-Jones
Salina Greene
Jessica Lurz
LaVon Curtis
LaDonna Sanders
Gila Harris

Unexcused

Fara Islam
Greg Parks

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30

Minutes

A small edit was made to the December minutes. Geoff moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Hope seconded. Motion passed without objection.

Resolution 830 Update

Raquel sent an update on the first meeting, which was largely focused on discussing the current public housing system. Conversations were robust and the next meeting will focus on financing. The Chair will send out an update on locations and dates.

Route 1 Charrette Update

Geoff said 15-20 people attended one of the pop-ups. There was an opportunity to provide comments. Very complex issue as always, especially when related to housing vouchers. There were 4-5 residents in attendance.

Canek updated on the plan for the Charrette. There will be a morning meeting (1-2 hours), middle of the day is staff time and then an evening meeting (1-2 in length) to have an open house. This is more accessible for people, which is a positive development. The timeline has been released. By June they would be moving forward to the City Council. The Chair will also send around the Rt. 1 Charrette dates.

Letter of Support for the Church of the Resurrection Project

Michele Krockner has organized some speakers for the City Council docket this weekend. There may be some opposition from residents from Goodwin House and she asked us to consider sending the letter. EOC members were supportive of the idea of doing a letter. Sal will work on writing a letter to be circulated. The Chair will support him and edit the letter. If anyone is interested, this will be early in the docket for the Council meeting on Saturday.

Membership

Kirk has resigned to join a different commission. Samantha resigned yesterday as well. Both are Category 1 members. Fara has also missed multiple meetings and the Chair and staff have not been able to get ahold of her. Her membership is now on hiatus while she is in the middle of her busy senior year.

Community Needs Assessment

It has been translated into Spanish, Arabic and Amharic. We sent out the link and we can also hand out hard copies.

We will post online, but we need to have a plan to get some in person.

ALIVE- Geoff
Carpenters/Volunteers – Kelly
Campania- June
Community lodgings – June
Seaport – Geoff
Lazarus/Christ Church – Hope
ARHA – Canek will reach out to Raquel and other contacts
Neighborhood Health - Canek
Workforce Center/health department/DHS building –
Southern Tours – Mass text message possible
Brent Place – Thomas maybe?
AHDC
Casey Clinic?

Geoff will enquire with ALIVE to see if we can join them and distributed surveys at the

In addition to printing the surveys, EOC members thought we should print flyers or notecards to hand out.

Goal is to collect the surveys by April and then put something together by June.

The data from the online survey is being put into a survey wizard. Discussion on how to input data, but the Commission tabled that discussion to next month.

By Laws

The Commission needs to submit a draft of our bylaws to the State by Feb. 2nd. We do not have 2/3 attendance to formally amend the bylaws today, but the Commission decided to edit the bylaws and send the draft to the State.

Article V, paragraph 3 was the focus of the discussion to try to encourage more low-income community member's participation and a fair and equitable process for election. The Commission decided to insert some of the suggested language: "Every effort should be made by eligible entities to assure that board members representing low-income individuals and families have been selected on the basis of some form of democratic procedure."

For Article IX, the Commission is in compliance with the standard, so language was added to say "at least every two years with signed acknowledgement of receipt."

The Commission also requested staff to pull Fairfax and Arlington examples to consider.

Sal motioned that the draft be sent to the State and the draft be sent to the February meeting for final consideration. Geoff seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Other Business

The Chair asked everyone to send in 3 recommendations for other commissions that we want to work with more closely.

Additionally, there is a request for two board members to volunteer to speak with someone from CAA next month before our meeting. Kelly and Geoff volunteer to speak with them.

Adjournment

Geoff motioned to adjourn. Thomas seconded. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:29pm.