



**ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**April 17, 2025
7:30 a.m.
200 Old Bernal Avenue, Council Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order at 7:36 a.m. by EVC Chair Brian Wilson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Brian Wilson, Davinder Channon, Gavin Shea, Josh Chanin, Ken Benhamou, Reena Gupta, and Vice Chair Steve McCoy-Thompson.

Absent: Igor Leonov

City staff: Economic Development Manager Lisa Adamos, Deputy Director of Community Development/Planning & Permit Center Manager Melinda Denis, and Economic Development Program Specialist Simone Pereira

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None were noted.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the Consent Calendar which included February 20, 2025, meeting minutes were approved as presented on motion by Vice Chair Steve McCoy Thompson and second by Reena Gupta. The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chair Wilson opened public comment. There were no public comments. Chair Wilson closed public comment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OTHER MATTERS

2. Receive Updates on Life Sciences and Biotechnology Industry Business Roadmap and Zoning Recommendations and Provide Feedback

Economic Development Manager Lisa Adamos provided an overview of the progress to date on the Life Sciences and Biotechnology Industry Business Roadmap and Zoning work which was initiated in August 2024. Staff provided an overview of the work completed from August to December 2024, with assistance from consultant, Alex Greenwood Group, which included key findings and recommendations. Planning & Permit Center Manager Melinda Denis provided additional insight on the draft zoning code amendments and permitting modifications.

Next steps will be to present the recommendations and zoning changes before the Planning Commission on May 14, 2025, for a recommendation to the City Council.

Chair Wilson opened public comment. There were no public comments. Chair Wilson closed public comment.

The committee provided feedback on the information presented and asked clarifying questions. No action was taken by the committee.

3. Receive Retail Development Program Update

Economic Development Manager Lisa Adamos provided an overview of the progress to date on the Retail Development Program which was initiated in June 2024. Staff shared new marketing brochures, a new city webpage, and an update on retail retention activities.

Chair Wilson opened public comment. There were no public comments. Chair Wilson closed public comment.

The committee provided feedback on the information presented and asked clarifying questions. No action was taken by the committee.

4. Receive Economic Development Information/Updates

Economic Development Manager Lisa Adamos noted upcoming business meetings and events including the 2025 East Bay Capital Summit, 2025 #GameChangers and Bike to Wherever Day.

MATTERS INITIATED BY ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMITTEE

There were no matters initiated by the committee. Chair Wilson acknowledged Reena Gupta's time on the EVC as this was her last meeting as a committee member.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 a.m.