

**Economic Opportunity Committee Meeting**

**June 9, 2021, 5:00 pm**

(Meeting is being held online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic)

Meeting Minutes

**FINAL/APPROVED 9/8**

Present:

Aashish Karkhanis  
Iris Lee  
Naomi Maisel  
Ross Stackhouse  
Wendie Yeung

Helen Bean, TLCBD Staff  
Lorraine Lewis, TLCBD Staff  
Alicia Seleska, TLCBD Staff

Absent:

Rene Colorado, Jr.  
Susie McKinnon

### **1. Call to Order. Welcome and Introductions**

A. Karkhanis called the meeting to order at 5:09 pm.

### **2. Action: Approve March Minutes**

MOTION: Review and approve the draft minutes of the March Meeting.

Moved by: A. Karkhanis

Seconded by: R. Stackhouse

Abstained: none

Passed: yes

### **3. Information Sharing & Discussion: Small Business Survey**

L. Lewis reported that feedback from the last meeting has been incorporated and the test surveys begin next week. We will test 10 applicants, and target July for administering the survey in person at 70 businesses. Final results are targeted approximately in mid-September.

H. Bean added that only businesses on the current email list will be surveyed; this list has been mapped into 3 zones: Geary/O'Farrell, Ellis/Eddy, and Turk/Golden Gate/McAllister - each zone will have a randomized sample.

A. Karkhanis asked how many businesses are on the email list; H. Bean responded that there are approximately 180 businesses.

R. Stackhouse liked the microneighborhood breakdown and asked if breaking it down by service boundaries is feasible. He also suggested adding an overlay of block groups served.

W. Yeung asked for thoughts in breaking Question 9 into a question around revenue--stabilization vs. growing--and other goals they may have for their business (e.g. hiring, getting onto Doordash).

A. Karkhanis added that from a methodology perspective he really likes how the survey is written in such a way that it can grow.

H. Bean concurred that the survey is set up to help the business owners think big first, and then ask what do I need to get there?

***[Action: L. Lewis and H. Bean will share only the business names and addresses with the Committee beforehand.]***

### **4. Information Sharing & Discussion: Small Business Safety**

L. Lewis explained that there has been an increase in crime across the TL; a webinar is planned to address how to support small businesses, and share safety protocols already established by TLCBD (e.g. the Safe Passage Program).

H. Bean added that they're hoping to share an overview of the statistics in the Tenderloin and what is being done (Safe Passage, Block Groups, Urban Alchemy, Larkin Street Shared Spaces), talk about what the public sector is doing (increased police coverage, mental health teams), and talk about the Mid Market Safety and Vibrancy Plan. It will also discuss the Camera Program--what is currently in place and how it will expand with increased funding. As for what the business owners can do, they're looking into deescalation training, SAFE SF provides training for businesses, and the Camera Program is expanding

further. They'll also encourage the businesses to report crimes and provide a shortcut for reporting that the Camera Program has identified.

A. Karkhanis asked if there are any crimes in particular thought to be under-reported. L. Lewis responded that there is no data for this but, based on experience, many crimes in general go unreported.

### **5. Information Sharing Reports: Economic Opportunity Work**

H. Bean shared they are almost finished with the current fiscal year of the CDBG grant. There were 96 grants at \$213,000 disbursed; there will be \$562 left at the end of the year. Next year's contract is for 15 additional grants at \$3,000 each for SF Shines. Continued funding for CDBG next year may be about \$27,000.

L. Lewis reported they're also hoping for additional funding related to their work with the Food Initiative. They applied for 2 grants that were not awarded--one through OEWD to submit for an ambassador training program alongside Code Tenderloin (prior to the Mayor's new plan) and a second national grant that ended up not being a good fit.

I. Lee highlighted work with 4 different businesses for business retention, relocation for the TLCBD Clean Team, expansion for the Curry Senior Center, and business attraction at 200 Leavenworth.

R. Stackhouse asked if any information has been shared on the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. H. Bean affirmed that it has already been shared with the email list.

### **6. Status Update and Information Sharing: TLCBD-TEDP Merger**

R. Stackhouse shared that the bank account closure has been initiated. The PayPal Giving Fund check may be a loss. The bank account needs to be closed out by June 30th.

A. Karkhanis added that the data side of the website has already been completed. The remaining web item is transferring the legacy account domain name.

A. Seleska shared that the EDD has twice confirmed that no filing or fees are due for the DE9 and DE9C for the last half of 2020 and the account has been closed despite receiving another letter indicating fees were due. Also, S. Bertrang is working on the TEDP tax filing for 2020.

***[Action: A. Karkhanis will connect with S. Bertrang by June 30th to transfer the domain name.]***

### **7. Close Meeting/Information Sharing: Announcements & Future Agenda Items**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Next Economic Opportunity Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, July 14, 5:00 pm | Online - Zoom