

Economic Opportunity Committee Meeting

September 8, 2021, 5:00 pm

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

Meeting Minutes

FINAL/APPROVED 11/9

Present:

Naomi Maisel
Gary Besser
Lowell Caulder
Rene Colorado, Jr.
Aashish Karkhanis
Iris Lee
Ross Stackhouse

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

Absent:

Susie McKinnon
Wendie Yeung

Guests:

Nanaraya Chotiphanomvivat, Tenderloin Merchants Association
Majeid Crawford, New Community Leadership Foundation
Jameel Patterson, New Community Leadership Foundation

1. Call to Order. Welcome and Introductions

N. Maisel called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm; introductions followed.

2. Information Sharing

L. Lewis provided some background on the Economic Opportunity program and shared the 3 core pillars for the program: small businesses, neighborhood, and workforce development.

H. Bean shared that Economic Opportunity is conducting surveys of small businesses in the Tenderloin area and has completed 30. They've also completed an inventory of small businesses in the area and are working on implementing the SF Shines grant via the City. A total of 12 grants have been awarded so far. A vandalism grant of \$1,000-\$2,000 to help with broken windows will start in the next week. A vacancy and broken window inventory of Larkin Street has also been completed. They're hosting a Safety Webinar on September 30th at 2:30pm online. They've also referred several businesses to 0% interest loans via the City. Lastly, they've begun speaking with NCLF on a Tenderloin marketing partnership proposal.

I. Lee reported that Pronto Pizza on Eddy signed a lease for 5 years with a lower rental rate and rental abatement for some improvements. Additionally, I. Lee has helped another business submit an LOI and worked with Angel Cafe to negotiate back rent, new rent moving forward and leasing space next door. They're helping RS94109 vacate space as the business couldn't come to an agreement on rent with the property. And finally, Los Yucatecos had a grand opening recently at 655 Larkin.

3. Discussion

N. Maisel asked for opinions on options for meeting frequency, etc. in the future and sought leads for 3 subcommittees: Tenderloin small business, Tenderloin Merchants Association (TMA), and workforce development.

G. Besser advocated for bi-monthly meetings. R. Colorado recommended coming together to meet to update, not work on projects. L. Caulder suggested flexibility; he likes project updates, hearing what's new or next, and seeking advice from community members.

R. Colorado volunteered to be the point person for the TMA subcommittee. G. Besser volunteered to be the point person for the workforce development subcommittee. H. Bean volunteered to be the point person for the Tenderloin small business subcommittee.

The committee agreed that meetings will now be held bi-monthly on second Tuesdays at 5PM.

[Action: N. Maisel will send out a survey to see which subcommittee(s) each member is interested in and include prompts for what they need and what they want to see.]

[Action: L. Lewis will double check the Zoom schedule and update the calendar invite.]

4. Discussion: Current Tenderloin Issue

N. Maisel asked for opinions on the new Safety and Vibrancy Plan. Committee members shared what they know, what they don't know about the plan.

J. Patterson commented that he's seen a big change in the neighborhood since Urban Alchemy has been around. Certain streets are a lot cleaner and it's easier for parents to get around with their children.

H. Bean voiced that the plan doesn't seem equitable.

G. Besser wondered if there has been any outreach to the Union Square Business District for any partnership of services due to their proximity. L. Lewis replied that CBDs tend to operate separately as they have different stakeholders and district boundaries' however, the new Safety Plan and Vibrancy Plan is a partnership with Mid Market.

[Action: N. Maisel and L. Lewis will reach out to MMBA and/or Urban Alchemy to get some answers on the specifics of the Plan.]

5. Status Update and Information Sharing

R. Colorado shared that TMA is in the middle of expanding staff. They're focusing on marketing, special events (public and community events), and the Shared Spaces program with the Ambassadors--they try to recruit in the Tenderloin and are working to expand the program elsewhere. They threw a Pride Festival and art festival earlier in the season. He then explained that the organization focuses primarily on Larkin Street because it's a very small team, but they're working with TLCBD to create a budget that will allow them to expand.

6. Action: Approve June Minutes

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

Moved by: N. Maisel

Seconded by: A. Karkhanis

Abstained: R. Colorado

Passed: yes

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Next Economic Opportunity Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 9, 5:00 pm | Online - Zoom