

M A D E R A C O U N T Y
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION

B O A R D O F C O M M I S S I O N E R S

M I N U T E S

October 16, 2019

PRESENT: *Brad Ditton, Tracie Scott-Contreras, Paige Hill, Ron Flores, Mary Diebert, Rob Poythress, Brett Frazier, Darin Soukup, Aran Johal, Ollia Ridge*

ABSENT: *Andy Medellin, Dee Salazar, Waseem Ahmed*

STAFF: *Bobby Kahn, Lois Grow, Julie Herd*

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Chair Poythress.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3.0 INTRODUCTIONS & RECOGNITIONS

Mark Hamilton, Community & Economic Development Director, City of Chowchilla was introduced.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

No changes.

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes
- July 10, 2019

5.2 Madera County Economic Development Commission Financial Report
- September 2019

On motion by Commissioner Frazier and seconded by Commissioner Diebert the consent calendar is approved as presented. Motion carried.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Letter of support in opposition of the [Draft 2020 ITIP](#) (Interregional Transportation Improvement Program)

On motion by Commissioner Scott-Contreras and seconded by Commissioner Ditton, MCEDC to write a letter of support in opposition of the Draft 2020 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program. Motion carried.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

None.

9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORT/INFORMATION

9.1 Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Soukup- (Oakhurst Chamber)- *reported the fall festival went really well. They're leaving tourism season, with lots of activity north of town with the opening of two hotels and a training/conference center.*

Commissioner Ridge- (Golden Valley Chamber)- *reported on Riverstone's, Riverwalk groundbreaking and Tesoro Viejo's Ranch House ribbon cutting on October 24th. Joann's Postal opened in the Rancho's. The Chamber will have their Christmas Tree lighting on December 6th and will be making 100 baskets for Veterans. Bobby added that Riley's Auto Parts will soon announce openings in the Ranchos and Chowchilla.*

Commissioner Scott-Contreras -(Workforce Investment Corporation)- *reported on the October 24th job fair with 34 employers. She was appointed to the Visitors Bureau Board and Lanie Suderman from the Visitors Bureau is being appointed to the Workforce Board. The board will spend time looking at labor force participation rates and defining what quality jobs look like in Madera County. They are participating on the CTE advisory board. Check out their podcasts listed on their website. And join their electronic news mailing list.*

Commissioner Diebert -(Utilities)- *reported on the recent power shut offs and reminded everyone to be prepared with an emergency plan and go bag. Shared the upcoming time of use changes for residential, commercial/industrial and ag.*

Commissioner Johal -(Coarsegold Chamber) - *reported on their recent Native American Pow Wow, upcoming Tarantula Festival and their November 12th Business Expo.*

Commissioner Poythress -(Madera Chamber)- *reported on their upcoming Pomegranate Festival and trip to the Riviera.*

Commissioner Ditton - (Bass Lake Chamber)- reported they had a busy and great summer. Tree mitigation is still going on.

Mark Hamilton - (City of Chowchilla)- reported Riley's Auto Part will open soon in Chowchilla and they are having a community forum for housing on October 31st.

Commissioner Frazier - (Board of Supervisors)- reported on the October 26th joint meeting between the County and Cities of Chowchilla and Madera. Chowchilla will be hosting this year. They will be discussing Opportunity Zones, EFID's and other economic development incentives. He is winding down his term as Chair with Supervisor Rogers taking over in January.

Commissioner Hill- (Chowchilla Chamber of Commerce)- reported on the Chamber's new welcome sign on 152. Their 20th car show was a success. They held a ribbon cutting for Camarena Health Care with Panda Express opening soon. Saturday is their farm to fresh dinner. Their awards dinner will be held in January. November 15th is their shop Chowchilla event which is adding more businesses every year.

9.2 Staff Reports

Executive Director- Bobby reported on working on Opportunity Zones, EFID's. He serves on a advisory committee for New Market Tax Credits where they have a new allocation coming. He's met with Senator Costa's office and Tony Simons from the Governor's office regarding a building at the end of the Chowchilla Airport runway. He gave an update on Freedom Industrial Park projects. Reported Love's is underway. The letter to the editor in the Madera Tribune is not correct. There is a development agreement in place between the city and Love's. We have re-initiated conversation with property owners at Ave. 7 and Hwy 99 and plan to have another meeting with them. Working with Ducey's on a major expansion. Recent activities include an SIOR event in August, ICSC meeting in Los Angeles. We finally have 3 businesses ready to move on projects in Madera County. He just finished a broker mission and Process Expo show in Chicago.

9.3 Manager of Business Development & Marketing

Julie reported the Annual Report is in process and she is working on a marketing video.

9.4 Business Assistance/Office Manager

Lois shared the Governor has approved monies for Cal Recycle up to 2023. She will attend their conference next week.

10.0 **NEXT MEETING** The next meeting of the Commission will be held January 8, 2020.

11.0 **ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m. submitted,

Lois Leonard, Recording Secretary