

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
January 12, 2022

MINUTES

This meeting was conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. Social distancing per the Executive Order were used the meeting and held via Zoom. Members of the public were advised at posting of the agenda that comments were accepted via email at info@maderacountydc.com.

PRESENT: Ollie Ridge, Brett Frazier, Brad Ditton, Darin Sourkup, Aran Johal,
Tracie Scott Contreras, Waseem Ahmed, Robert Poythress, Paige Hill

ABSENT: Anthony Corales, Wade Wheeler, Santos Garcia, Ron Flores

STAFF: Bobby Kahn, Lois Leonard

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 & RECOGNITION

None.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

No changes.

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes

-October 27, 2021

5.2 Madera County Economic Development Financial Report

- December 2021

On motion by Commissioner Frazier and seconded by Commissioner Scott-Contreras, the consent calendar is approved as presented. Motion carried.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Presentation and request for support of The Margaux Wedding Venue Project-previously known as The L&D Ranch Wedding Venue Project

Lara Perez gave a presentation on their project located at Avenue 14 and Road 39-1/2. On motion by Commissioner Scott-Contreras and seconded by Commissioner Johal. MCEDC will write on letter in support of The Margaux Wedding Venue. Motion carried with Commissioners Frazier and Poythress recusing themselves and leaving the room.

6.2 AB361 Changes to the Ralph M. Brown Act Opening Meeting Laws

On motion by Commissioner Frazier and seconded by Commissioner Scott-Contreras MCEDC will adopt Resolution 2022-1 authorizing Remote Teleconference for all Commission and Executive Committee Meeting in accordance of Assembly Bill 361 for a period of 30 days. Motion carried.

6.3 Support for Proposition 68 Grant Proposal for Madera County, Oakhurst River Parkway Restoration Project located in the community of Oakhurst in the foothills of Madera County

On motion by Commissioner Scott-Contreras and seconded by Commissioner Ridge, MCEDC will write a letter in support of the Proposition 68 Grant Proposal for the Madera County, Oakhurst River Parkway Restoration Project. Motion carried.

6.4 MCEDC Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Audit Review and Approval

On motion by Commissioner Frazier and seconded by Commissioner Ridge, the audit for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 is approved. Motion carried.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

None.

9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORT/INFORMATION

9.1 Commissioners Reports

Commissioner Poythress- (Madera Chamber) – *the chamber has held a few events including the Pomegranate Festival. They continue to keep businesses informed on business matters.*

Commissioner Scott Contreras-(Workforce Investment Board)- *reported they are working on the good jobs talent grant, focusing on healthcare. They are partnering with local workforce offices, chambers and the community college. To expand healthcare training on the nursing pathway. They are working with the Fresno EDC on a grant focusing on four areas: Construction, Transportation/Logistics, Business Services and Manufacturing. Their focus in Madera County is Madera CCOE and their truck driving program.*

Commissioner Johal-(Coarsegold Chamber) - *reported the chamber has no update at this time.*

Commissioner Frazier- (Board of Supervisors)- *reported the Board adopted the new district lines. They reorganized with Tom Wheeler elected as Chair and himself as Vice-Chair. The COVID numbers are way up in the county.*

Commissioner Ahmed- (City of Chowchilla)- *reported it was a busy year and continues to be with new construction. Housing is moving forward and the Auto Zone distribution center is in plan check.*

Commissioner Hill- (Chowchilla Chamber)- *reported their annual awards dinner will be held on January 15th. There are a lot of new business coming to Chowchilla. Lots of small business. The City of Chowchilla is offering grants to help small business. The Chamber Board is filling the role of Director as they look for a new one.*

Commissioner Ridge-(Madera Ranchos Chamber)- *reported they are not too busy in the Ranchos. A couple of new businesses are opening at 41/Ave 12. They are hoping to have their annual crab feed but the price of crab is going up. They are beginning to plan the Flatlanders Parade.*

Commissioner Soukup- (Oakhurst Chamber)- *thanked the board for the letter of support for the Proposition 68 grant. Chamber Awards dinner will be held January 20th. A wave of COVID/Omicron is coming through. Better now than during the busy tourist season. College will open in February.*

9.2 Executive Director- *Bobby reported he attended the SIOR Holiday event in San Francisco. The event was well attended with lots of networking. He had previously met Whse Partners at this event which lead them to opening their business in Madera. He attended the ICSC event normally held in May in December. Normal attendance is around 50,000 this events attendance was around 10,000 people. He will attend an in person Bay Area Mission this month but continues to do zoom mission meetings as well. WHSE Partners held their ground breaking on November 30th. He is currently working on many projects. Among World is a cold storage facility, Auto Zone (Project Sunset) will build a 500,000 to 750,000 square foot building, Project Riverwood is moving through environmental, a National Commercial Warehouse and a Hydrogen company. Marlin Recreation purchased a building on W. Almond, ZNDUS will open at 2121 W. Almond. Working on expansions with Evapco West, Miles Chemical and with the new owners of Warnock Foods. The Sagar's that owe the Denny's Franchise at 18-1/2 closed escrow on a building in Chowchilla hoping to open there. Dutch Brothers is in the permitting process with the City of Madera and Boot Barn is leasing the old Office Depot building hoping to open prior to March. The North Fork Rancheria Casino purchased additional property around their project. Having major issues with PG&E and the lack of capacity in the City of Madera. Has had several meetings with them and the city trying to resolve the issues. This is a huge issue for industrial growth.*

9.3 Manager of Business Development & Marketing- as reported.

9.4 Business Assistance/Office Manager- as reported.

10.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on April 13, 2022.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Leonard, Recording Secretary