

**Economic Prosperity Commission  
March 31, 2016 6:30pm  
Terraza's Branch Library  
1105 E. Cesar Chavez St., Austin, TX 78702  
AUSTIN, TEXAS**



**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER 6:35pm**

**1. OPENING REMARKS**

**a. Attendance:** City Staff: Michelle Clemons-Executive Staff liaison, Jessica Armstrong-Staff liaison and Vicky Valdez – Backup Staff liaison; Committee Members: John King-District 7 appointee, Eric Stratton- District 6 appointee, Kirsha Haverlah District, Roberto Rondero de Mosier-District 3 appointee, Holt Lackey- District 10 appointee, Kevin Opp-District 9 appointee, Marina Bhargava- District 1 appointee; Absent: Orlando Segura- At-Large appointee, Michael Joyce- District 8 appointee Resigned: Amy Cobb- District 4 appointee; Severino Sarabia- District 5 appointee

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** No citizens signed up to speak

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Economic Development Department presentation.

The following staff were available for questions related to the presentation: Alex Lopez – Deputy Director, Sylnovia Holt-Rabb- Assistant Director, Xavier Zarate-Loan Officer, David Colligan- Manager for Global Business Recruitment and Expansion, Vicky Valdez- Manager for the Small Business Development Program, Christine Maguire- Manager of the Redevelopment Division, Joy Miller- Marketing and Outreach for Small Business Program, Meghan Wells- Manager of the Cultural Arts Division, Jesus Pantel- Manager Cultural Arts Funding Programs. Brief presentation was given by Kevin Johns to explain the purpose of the Economic Development Department and the different EDD projects.

Kevin Johns gave a quick overview of the Economic Development Department, Economic Challenges, Strengths and Opportunities (with Partner Organizations), Strategic Planning, Einstein Project, Economic Incentive Reserve Fund (Chapter 380 Performance-Based Contracts), Redevelopment Public Private Partnerships (Seaholm, Mueller, Soul-y Austin), Loan Programs (Family Business Loan Program, Music Venue Loans Program, and Business Retention Enhancement Fund), Economic Development Policy, and Workforce Development partners (Capital Idea).

Staff members provided additional information:

Vicky Valdez gave a quick overview of the Small Business Department. Small Business offers over 150 classes a year, Family Business Loan Program, Entrepreneurs Classes including Manufacturing, Freelance, Locally Austin Website and Getting Connected/Meet the Lender; and Meghan Wells and Jesus Pantel gave a quick overview about the Cultural Arts Departments Grants and Funding; and Sylnovia Holt-Rabb spoke about exploring the fashion industry in Austin. EDD recommended a fashion incubator training and partnership with the local University and Community College.

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

- Approval of minutes was tabled until April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting due to limited time after the presentation and questions.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Approve minutes from February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- Solidifying the groups that will be invited to meetings on May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Special Called Meetings for the next quarter.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:45pm Eric Stratton moved to adjourn, Kevin Opp seconds- vote was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call Michelle Clemons at Economic Development Department, at (512-974-2713), for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Economic Prosperity Commission, please contact Michelle Clemons at ([Michelle.Clemons@austintexas.gov](mailto:Michelle.Clemons@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-2713).