

# ARLINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## Minutes Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 10, 2023

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Amal, Tommy	X	
Bates, Kate	X	
Blenkle, Andy	X	
Boyd, Ryaan	X	
Brewer, Janetta		X
Cooper, Steve	X	
Denning, Tim	X (virtual – travel)	
Dunn, Bill	X (virtual – sick)	
Lynch, Catherine	X	
Manlove, Steve	X	
Mansur, Sid	X	
Mason, Brad	X	
Masresha, Daniel		X
Meyyan, Praveen	X (virtual – travel)	
Osborne, Tiffany	X	
Pedowitz, Scott	X	
Sampaio, Flavia	X	
Schoenfeld, Mary Margaret	X (virtual – sick)	
Sisk, Avril Ussery	X	
Smith, Larry		X
Virasingh, Vicky	X (virtual – travel)	
Yam, Kevin	X	

### 1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Arlington Economic Development Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Yam at 8:05 AM.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Lynch to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

### 3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice-Chair Yam noted Chair Dunn's absence due to illness and announced leadership roles for the year. Takis Karantonis will continue to serve as Board liaison for 2023. Vice Chair Yam reported Chair Dunn's goal of stimulating robust participation through various working groups, with participation by all Commissioners during their tenure of service. He also introduced two new Commissioners, Tiffany Osborne and Tommy Amal.

#### 4. INFORMATION & DISCUSSION: “AED Outlook for 2023” – AED Director Ryan Touhill

Director Touhill gave a presentation on his outlook and priorities, beginning with his strong belief that Business Success is Community Success. The presentation began with a list of challenges currently facing the community and how these challenges impact Arlington County’s revenue and its ability to provide high-quality services to residents and workers. Core aspects of AED’s strategy include inclusive economic development; collaboration with local and regional partners; leveraging all divisions within AED and enhanced marketing efforts to ensure the Arlington story is being told in an impactful, meaningful way. Priority areas include supporting business attraction and expansion; commercial market resiliency/regulatory relief; small business recovery; tourism recovery; return to office initiatives and creative placemaking.

#### 5. WORKING GROUPS:

- Commercial Vacancy: Commissioner Pedowitz reported out that this group seeks to bring to light to the current challenges but with a lens on how to tackle them, i.e., how can the EDC and private sector help the County? There was good discussion among the Commissioners and consensus that there is an opportunity and willingness to consider bold ideas. Ideas shared included a closer look at what other communities are doing and considering incentives for investors and developers to replace or renovate outdated office stock.
- Workforce: Commissioner Cooper announced that the Workforce group will meet on the third Tuesday of each month and encouraged participation from other members.
- Sustainability: Vice Chair Yam introduced a fourth working group and asked for someone to lead the group.
- Small Business: Vice Chair Yam shared that Janetta Brewer will be chairing this working group and will set up time for a first meeting.

#### 6. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

#### 7. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

#### 8. ADJOURNMENT

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. by Vice Chair Yam.*

The next meeting of the Economic Development Commission will be held 8:00 AM, February 14, 2023.