

# ARLINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## Minutes Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 14, 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	
Fedorchak, Stephen	X	
Lynch, Catherine	X	
Manlove, Steve	X	
Mansur, Sid	X	
Mason, Brad	X	
Meyyan, Praveen	X	
Osborne, Tiffany	X	
Pedowitz, Scott	X (virtual - travel)	
Sampaio, Flavia		X
Schoenfeld, Mary Margaret	X	
Sisk, Avril Ussery	X (virtual – sick)	
Smith, Larry	X (virtual)	
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 Chair Dunn at 8:05 AM.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Lynch to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

### 3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Dunn shared his vision for the EDC in 2023 including robust participation from the membership and involvement in committee work and encouraged Commission members to speak up in all areas, not just their own areas of expertise. He asked the EDC to honor former Chair Sisk for her leadership over the past three years and welcomed EDC's newest member, Commissioner Fedorchak.

#### 4. AED DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Touhill updated the Commission that the County Manager's budget will be presented on February 18 and AED will present its budget to the County Board in mid-March. Director Touhill shared several AED staff updates including the topping out ceremony at the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, a ribbon cutting for Radiance Technologies, Arlington Talent Pilot Program media coverage, BizLaunch en Espanol and the Arlington Hospitality Awards.

#### 5. INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

- *"The Future of Office" Panel hosted and moderated by Commissioner Mason with panelists John Sikaitis (Avison Young), Nick Gregorios (Avison Young) and Marc McCauley (AED)*

Chair Mason introduced the panel by reiterating that one of the biggest economic challenges for Arlington and the community is commercial vacancy and the impact of remote/hybrid work. He then asked panelists to introduce themselves before delving into a series of questions geared at understanding the impact vacancy is having on this region, other regions, and what Arlington County is doing about it. Discussion centered around the fact that current office vacancy is a structural problem versus cyclical, the challenges of residential conversion, commercial market resiliency efforts, and the potential use of incentives

#### 6. WORKING GROUPS:

- Commercial Vacancy
- Workforce Taskforce

#### 7. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

#### 9. ADJOURNMENT

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m. by Chair Dunn.*

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