

ARLINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
 Regular Meeting  
 Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Member Name	Present	Virtual	Absent
Amal, Tommy			X
Bates, Kate	X		
Boyd, Ryaan		X	
Brewer, Janetta		X	
Cooper, Steve	X		
Dunn, Bill	X		
Fedorchak, Stephen	X		
Gregorios, Nick			X
Lynch, Catherine			X
Mansur, Sid	X		
Mason, Brad	X		
Meyyan, Praveen	X		
Oyler, Joseph	X		
Pedowitz, Scott	X		
Rosales, Karen	X		
Sampaio, Flavia	X		
Schoenfeld, Mary Margaret		X	
Sisk, Avril Ussery			X
Sorrell, Paula	X		
Tate, Jordan	X		
Van Horn, Andy	X		
Virasingh, Vicky	X		
Yam, Kevin	X		

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TOGETHER**

The meeting called to order at 8:04 a.m. by Chair Dunn

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Yam to approve the Sept. 12, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

### **3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Dunn reminded everyone that this commission is unusual, with no space for public comment and reminded the guest that they are not permitted to make comments. He discussed last month's meeting, where the commission members held a robust discussion on the CMRI and reminded members that later in the meeting, there will be a vote on the CMRI recommendations. Chair Dunn informed the committee that next month he and Chair Pedowitz would present the recommendations to the County Board.

### **4. AED DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

AED Director Ryan Touhill gave an update on the Arlington Innovation Fund, explaining that the Catalyst Grant Program is a tool to help increase funding for early-stage technology startups and that there is one-time funding for the Entrepreneur-in-Residency program to support early-stage entrepreneurs. He also said that one-third of the funds will be used for sponsorships, like the one in collaboration with Commissioner Boyd for a tech event to bring together African-American entrepreneurs in the tech space. Director Touhill informed the commission about the media tour he attended in New York to help promote Arlington and the work AED is doing around innovation and the office market. He met with media outlets from the *Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg*, *Financial Times*, *Handelsblatt* and *Voice of America*. Lastly, Director Touhill gave a shout-out to AED's BizLaunch team, which set up a small business directory, which is a great opportunity for small businesses, to highlight their businesses.

### **5. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

County CPHD staff Natasha Alfonso-Ahmed (Principal Planner) and Jennifer Smith (Planning Manager) gave a presentation followed by a discussion on the Langston Boulevard Area Plan. The plan provides a comprehensive high-level report to the County Board. The plan's vision focuses on transportation and open space in the core areas on or near Langston Blvd. The plan is centered around a resilient, renewable and re-energized approach. Staff gave an overview of the community feedback and engagement overview. Two overall concerns were identified. First, the concern is the existing plan needs to be revised, and secondly, there is a need for policies to support existing businesses. Staff also gave an overview of the current land use framework and addressed the need for a new land use framework. Following the presentation, staff engaged in a Q & A session with the commission members.

### **6. OLD BUSINESS**

Vote on Office Vacancy Working Group recommendations: Commissioner Scott Pedowitz gave an overview of recommendations with minor updates, including revised language on cash grants, then followed with a discussion among the commission. Commissioner Sorrel pointed out that the Arts grant activates space (p. 11 of the document) had no direct recommendation to fund arts to bring people back to the office. Commissioner Virasingh suggested adding a co-labs opportunity to the co-working section. Chair Dunn reminded members the document is meant to be a menu of recommendations, not all at the same priority, and collaborative with AED. Chair Dunn made a motion to put forward to adopt the EDC's CMRI Recommendations. Commissioner Fedorchak seconded the motion. The motion

passed by unanimous support.

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

Paula Sorrell invited commission members and guests to attend the Accelerate Investor Conference 2023 on Nov. 1–2. The expected number of attendees is 500.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Dunn adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

**Upcoming Meetings:** Regular Commission Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023  
1100 N. Glebe Rd., First Floor Conference Center