

ARLINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024

Member Name	Present	Virtual	Absent
Amal, Tommy	X		
Bates, Kate	X		
Boyd, Ryaan	X		
Brewer, Janetta	X		
Burchard, Anthony	X		
Cooper, Steve	X		
Dunn, Bill	X		
Fedorchak, Stephen			X
Garthwaite, Ben			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		
Weinstein, Matthew	X		

1. WELCOME AND CALL TOGETHER

The February EDC meeting was held at Amazon HQ2’s Visitor Landing. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Chair Bill Dunn.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Scott Pedowitz and seconded by Commissioner Steven Cooper to approve the Jan. 9, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT — BILL DUNN

Chair Dunn briefed the Commission on a panel discussion he attended for “Arlington 2050 Envisioning Tomorrow Together.” The discussion, moderated by County Board Chair, Libby Garvey, was on what Arlington will look like in 2050 if current trends regarding business, climate and demography continue. The meeting was the kickoff to a year-long effort to engage the community across Arlington on what challenges the County, and its residents must address. Beyond initiating and sustaining a dialogue, the initiative seeks to distill community feedback on its visions of the future, which can serve as the basis or a foundation for long-term strategic planning.

4. AED DIRECTOR'S REPORT — RYAN TOUHILL, DIRECTOR

Ryan briefed the Commission on the recent two-day BizLaunch Bootcamp, held January 25–26. The workshop included 40 entrepreneurs who heard from experts on HR, leadership and how to access capital. Throughout February, Bootcamp graduates will work with their SCORE and BizLaunch mentors to help them with their business pitch. On March 15, businesses will pitch their idea to a panel of investors, made up of Bootcamp sponsors, and the winner will be awarded a cash prize.

Ryan encouraged Commission Members to attend the Minority Vendors Showcase in honor of Black History Month on Feb. 28 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City. Over 75 Black-owned businesses will participate in the Vendor Showcase. Commission member Avril Ussery Sisk will moderate a fire-side chat with Dr. Alfiee Breland-Noble about her founder, The Aakoma Project.

The Business Investment Group announced a partnership with Citrine Angels, the largest female-focused angel investing organization in the mid-Atlantic region. AED and Citrine Angels are launching the Elevate Your Venture: Arlington Female Founder Series, which will include four free educational events designed to tackle the unique challenges facing entrepreneurs today.

Ryan announced that while renovations are still underway at the AED office, the March EDC meeting will be held on-site in suite 1500.

5. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION — MARIAN MARQUEZ, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, ALEXANDRIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP (AEDP)

Guest speaker Marian Marquez spoke about the Monumental Sports Arena. She gave a presentation on the “Monumental Opportunity.” Marian spoke on the “deal” in partnership with AEDP, the State of Virginia, JGB Smith and Monumental Sports. The “deal” involved no upfront cash from VA and no new taxes. Marian discussed the most important aspects of the “deal. This deal is like nothing ever done before. Two teams moving at once creates 30,000 new jobs, resulting in direct, positive cash returns to the City and State. There is no taxpayer subsidy, no upfront cash commitment by the State and no new taxes created or increased. This project continues workforce commitments. It will include a labor framework like Amazon HQ2. Monumental Sports will continue to use organized labor for operations, as they currently do in D.C. This is a 40-year agreement between the state and the company. The mandates lease payments for 35 years after opening. The teams are required to play games in the arena. The project will include new transportation improvements for the area. \$310 million in transportation and infrastructure improvements has already been identified as part of the project with no general fund commitment from the Commonwealth.

6. WORKING GROUP UPDATES —

COMMERCIAL VACANCY WORKING GROUP — Commissioner Scott Pedowitz gave an update on the Office Vacancy working group. Commissioner Pedowitz then made a motion to adopt the letter. Commissioner Brad Mason seconded the motion.

Discussion — Commission Pedowitz reiterated to the Commission members that last year, the County Board used the Request to Advertise to frame the community conversation prior to the County Board action on CMRI 1.0 items. The EDC thus encourages the County Board to advertise the CMRI 2.0 items to be requested in February for action at its April meeting. These items include action on media screens, shared and off-site parking requirements, and adjustments to parking rules. The EDC anticipates that these advertisements will set up a valuable community conversation that touches on issues of aligning our regulations to actual needs and using our commercial spaces to build an enhanced sense of place and community in Arlington. The motion to adopt the letter passed, with one abstention from commission member Avril Ussery Sisk.

7. Old Business — None

8. New Business — Amazon HQ2 Building Tour

9. ADJOURNMENT — Chair Dunn adjourned the meeting at the end of the tour, at 9:34 a.m.