MEETING MINUTES OF THE
ARLINGTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

April 28, 2026

The Economic Development Commission Executive Committee convened its meeting at 8:00 AM on April 28, 2026, at AED's office.

PRESENT (IN PERSON)	Kate Bates Nick Gregorios Brad Mason Praveen Meyyan Meredith Sumpter
ABSENT	Catherine Lynch

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

March EDC Meetings Debrief
The Executive Committee discussed the March EDC meeting and the County budget process. Chair Gregorios provided an overview of the EDC's testimony before the County Board and noted that this year's budget hearing process included a more extensive question-and-answer format than in previous years. Members discussed the Board's continued focus on economic development, commissions, and organizational effectiveness.

AED Director's Update – Kate Ange
Deputy Director Ange provided an update on the County's FY27 budget outcomes. AED's communications and marketing division was reduced as part of the adopted budget; however, AED received $250,000 in one-time innovation funding. Members discussed opportunities to leverage marketing and public relations resources more strategically through external support and investments.

Deputy Director Ange also provided a significant update on the National Innovation Quarter (NIQ), including the launch of new programming, increasing interest from businesses considering relocation to Arlington, and the organization's application for a $4 million GO Virginia grant. The Executive Committee discussed NIQ's role in supporting workforce development, partnerships with higher education institutions, and Arlington's position within the broader regional innovation economy.

The Committee also discussed opportunities to expand economic development efforts beyond the federal sector, including corporate headquarters attraction, emerging technology industries, energy, artificial intelligence, and other regulated industries that benefit from proximity to policymakers and decision-makers.

EDC Programming and Engagement Update
The Executive Committee reviewed upcoming EDC meeting agendas through the summer. For the May EDC meeting, members discussed a workforce-focused panel to be moderated by Commissioner Steve Cooper and featuring business, workforce, and data experts. The Committee also discussed preparation

for upcoming Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) engagement and anticipated June discussions related to Arlington's economic diversification strategy.

The Executive Committee considered potential future topics, including:

- Legislative and state policy updates.
- The economic impact of Arlington's nonprofit sector.
- Hospitality and tourism updates.
- National Innovation Quarter and Virginia Tech engagement opportunities.
- Workforce development and industry diversification.

Members also discussed opportunities for EDC participation in Arlington and regional events associated with America's 250th anniversary celebration.

Commercial Vacancy Working Group Update
Chair Gregorios provided an update on the Commercial Vacancy Working Group. Members discussed the group's efforts to identify practical recommendations that support commercial occupancy, business attraction, and adaptive reuse activity.

The Working Group plans to focus on both near-term recommendations, such as parking flexibility, signage, and outdoor space activation, as well as longer-term policy considerations including adaptive reuse regulations, planning processes, financing tools, and development flexibility. The Committee expects to receive draft recommendations for review later in the year.

Commission Representation and Liaison Opportunities
The Executive Committee discussed representation opportunities with the Crystal City-Pentagon City Civic Association and the VHC Carlin Springs planning process. Members discussed identifying Commissioners with ties to Crystal City and Pentagon City who may be interested in serving as liaisons. The Committee also discussed opportunities to connect with local stakeholders and increase EDC participation in community engagement efforts.

Governance and Nominations Update
Commissioners Mason and Gregorios provided an update on EDC recruitment efforts. The Executive Committee reviewed progress toward establishing a more structured process for tracking applicants, interviews, meeting attendance, and recommendations.

Members discussed current vacancies, pending appointments, anticipated term expirations, and efforts to ensure the Commission maintains a diverse range of expertise, industry perspectives, and community representation. The Committee noted several strong candidates are progressing through the appointment process.

Deputy Director Ange also reported that the AED Director recruitment process is in its final stages, with an announcement anticipated in the near future.

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

Commissioner Bates moved that the Committee approve the minutes from the February EDC Executive Committee meeting. The motion was seconded, and the Executive Committee unanimously supported the motion.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:18 AM.