
**SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT**

Monday, March 9, 2020
5:30 P.M.
City Hall, Room 400
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS

Sharky Laguana, President
Miriam Zouzounis, Vice-President
Stephen Adams; Kathleen Dooley; Cynthia Huie;
William Ortiz-Cartagena;
Manny Yekutieli

1. Call to order and roll call.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31pm.

Commissioners: Adams, Huie*, Laguana, Ortiz-Cartagena, Yekutieli, and Zouzounis were present.

Commissioner Huie arrived during Item 6.

Commissioner Dooley was absent.

Staff in attendance: Dominica Donovan (Senior Policy Analyst).

2. General Public Comment. (Discussion Item)

No members of the public requested to speak.

Note: The Commission President called items 3-5 together.

3. Board of Supervisors File No. 200086 - Planning Code, Zoning Map - Bayview Industrial Triangle Cannabis Restricted Use District. (Discussion and Action Item)

4. Board of Supervisors File No. 200087 - Planning Code, Zoning Map - Bayview Industrial Triangle Cannabis Restricted Use District. (Discussion and Action Item)

5. Board of Supervisors File No. 200144 - Police Code - Ceasing Acceptance of New Applications - Cannabis Retail Permits. (Discussion and Action Item)

Commissioner Laguana requested that items 3-5 be continued.

No members of the public requested to speak.

Motion: Commissioner Adams motioned to continue Items 3-5.

2nd: Commissioner Zouzounis.

Aye: 5

Nay: 0

Absent: 2

Motion passed: 5-0.

6. Presentation: San Francisco Metropolitan Transit Agency (SFMTA) Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget. (Discussion Item)

Director Tumlin provided an overview of the SFMTA fiscal year 2021-2022 budget and related findings. Leo Levenson with the SFMTA provided an additional overview of the SFMTA's balanced budget proposals.

The Commissioners thanked the Director and staff for the presentation and commended their work.

They inquired regarding fare changes and Director Tumlin emphasized that while the Agency relies on fares, they want to focus in on the data to minimize increases for the most vulnerable populations. And, that options would be presented to the SFMTA Board, in addition to working with community organizations.

The Commission also inquired regarding congestion and the regulation of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs). Director Tumlin shared that TNCs are regulated at the state level and that advocacy is needed at that level should changes be made. Additionally, to minimize congestion impact the Agency is focusing efforts on providing access towards high efficiency modes of travel, i.e. Market Street. Other streets include Van Ness, Geary, Fulton, the N-Judah line, and Third and Fourth Street. He also followed with his and the Agency's commitment to ensure that all have equitable access to the streets and that they contribute a fair share relative to used street space.

There was an additional question regarding staff vacancies. Director Tumlin identified needed reforms in their Human Resources Department and a renewed focus on mission critical staff.

Relative to the SFMTA budget, small businesses, and equity Director Tumlin affirmed his vision for ensuring that commercial corridors thrive and that San Franciscans can access them through reliable forms of public transit. It is in his interest as the Transportation Director to support small business success.

Regarding efficiencies of San Francisco streets. Director Tumlin acknowledged that there is a tension between implementing protected bike lanes versus parking spaces and public transit. He shared that SFMTA is most interested in ensuring that the maximum number of people can access commercial corridors. He also shared that this too will be data driven, i.e. looking at tax revenue data and available credit card receipt data. Regarding protected bike lanes, the utility is significant for increasing bike ridership which indirectly increases spontaneous spending.

The Commission also discusses meter upgrades and the Director affirmed that they are intended to best serve meter customers. He also shared that the SFMTA could look in to a program that e-validates a customer's parking.

On the matter of the budget, the Director and staff shared that they anticipate using existing reserves as a bridge but, that additional revenue sources will have to be found. If not, that cutbacks could be expected. Relative to COVID, the Director is contemplating how it could possibly impact ridership and revenues and relying on data to drive decision making.

No members of the public requested to speak.

7. Presentation: Summary discussion regarding the February 26, 2020 meeting on Third Party Delivery Platforms and Virtual and Ghost Kitchens. (Discussion and Action Item).

Before the item commenced, Commissioners Adams and Zouzounis affirmed that they watched the February 26 Commission meeting.

Ms. Donovan, Senior Policy Analyst with the Office of Small Business, provided an overview of the meeting on Third Party Delivery Platforms and Virtual and Ghost Kitchen. She shared two primary conclusions drawn from the meeting that would help inform future recommendations to be made relative to the topic. Ben Van Houten provided additional information to the Commission regarding the interagency work related to Third Party Delivery Platforms and Virtual and Ghost Kitchens.

No members of the public requested to speak.

Commissioners discussed the memo and the recommendations. They opined on how catering uses and formula retail controls interacted relative to virtual and ghost kitchens. And they established that more thought needs to be given to how delivery apps are helping or hurting small businesses. Ultimately, the Commission wants to ensure that Third Party Delivery Platforms, Virtual and Ghost Kitchens are regulated in such a way that is equitable to brick and mortar restaurants.

Motion: Commissioner Huie motioned to direct staff to present document to the Special Hearing on March 12.

2nd: Commissioner Yekutieli.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Absent: 1

Before item 8 was called, Commissioner Laguana opened the discussion by elevating the impact that Coronavirus is already having on businesses in San Francisco. He then made a motion to find that the Coronavirus presents a threat to small businesses that is so great that it constitutes an emergency.

Motion: Commissioner Laguana moved to establish that economic impacts related to Coronavirus constitute an emergency relative to the local economy and workforce and add an agenda item to discuss.

2nd: Commissioner Adams.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Absent: 1

8. Discussion of Local Economic and Workforce Impacts of Coronavirus (Discussion and Action Item)

Commissioner Laguana led a discussion relative to the Coronavirus's anticipated impact to small business and the local workforce and established support for the Mayor's efforts to address those impacts as well as the Board of Supervisors.

There was additional discussion of additional support for small businesses, especially LBEs. Also, the Commission highlighted that this will elevate the need to ensure there is more diversity in the local economy. The Commission also discussed frustrations related to there being a extreme consequences that will be incurred by businesses of all sizes should the City shut-down.

Public Comment:

Amelia Linde, SF Chamber, spoke on anticipated challenges relative to economic impacts expected to be incurred due to Coronavirus.

Motion: Commissioner Yekutieli motioned to approve a resolution to support small businesses and work together with the City responsive to challenges with Coronavirus.

2nd: Commissioner Adams.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Absent: 1

9. Commissioners Reports (Discussion Item)

No members of the public requested to speak.

Commissioner Zouzounis discussed the local California Refund Value program.

Commissioner Huie attended a SF LOMA meeting.

Commissioner Yekutieli shared that he is now a Board member of the Valencia Street Merchants. He also thanked Commissioner Huie for her support.

10. New Business. (Discussion Item)

Commissioner Yekutieli noted that Mad Dog in the Fog, Social Kitchen and Brewery, and Market House in the Ferry Building have all closed. He suggested that the meeting be adjourned in their honor.

Commissioner Laguana also requested to close the meeting in honor of medical workers.

No members of the public requested to speak.

11. Adjournment. (Action Item)

Motion: Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena motioned to adjourn in honor of medical workers and Mad Dog in the Fog, Social Kitchen and Brewery, and Market House in the Ferry Building

2nd: Commissioner Huie.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Absent: 1

Meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.