



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
KATY TANG, DIRECTOR

**SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, September 11, 2023, 4:30 P.M.
City Hall, Room 408, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS

Cynthia Huie, President;
Miriam Zouzounis, Vice-President;
Tiffany Carter, Lawanda Dickerson; Tricia Gregory; Rachel Herbert; William Ortiz-Cartagena;

1. Call to order and roll call

Meeting called to order at 4:30pm
Present: Dickerson, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena, Zouzounis
Absent: Carter, Gregory, Herbert

**2. BOS File 230861 - Police Code - Fees, Applications, and Conditions for Certain Entertainment Permits
(Discussion and Action Item)**

Ben Van Houten, Business Development Manager, Nightlife & Entertainment Sector Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and Maggie Weiland, Executive Director, Entertainment Commission presented the legislation which would amend Police Code to simplify permitting and support better customer experiences for entertainment permit applicants. Small businesses in the entertainment sector were highly impacted by COVID-19, and they are still struggling to recover. This legislation would waive certain entertainment permit fees, remove excessive referrals to other Departments, remove outdated code language, eliminate the duplicative requirements to collect criminal background/history of applicants, etc.

Commissioner comment:

Ortiz-Cartagena: Thank you. Removing these extra referrals saves time and money.

Huie: What other improvements can we make to help these businesses? It's an iterative, ongoing process.

Zouzounis: Thanks for eliminating these duplicative codes. What was the process to make this happen? COVID 19 had put a hold on these efforts, but every year the Entertainment Commission has a summit to gather stakeholder input, and many of these recommendations grew out of that. This complements the Office of Small Business legislation focusing on Planning Code reforms.

Ortiz-Cartagena: Do schools require permits? Yes, for amplified sound/events. It's not something the Entertainment Commission wants to regulate, so working to exempt schools, etc.

No members of the public requested to speak.

Motion to recommend this legislation with support: Dickerson

2nd: Ortiz-Cartagena

Present: Dickerson, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena, Zouzounis

Absent: Carter, Gregory, Herbert

Motion passes

3. Presentation on Housing Element Rezoning (Discussion Item)

Lisa Chen, Principal Planner, San Francisco Planning Department and Josh Switzky presented the Housing Element Zoning Program, which is part of the Housing for All initiative, and aims to expand housing affordability and availability by allowing for increased density throughout the City, especially along transit and commercial corridors. They outlined the state requirements to add housing units, and the areas of the City that will be changed via zoning in 2024. They noted that as tenants, small businesses may be impacted by building sales or demolition, or experience interruptions as a result of construction, though both scenarios would not happen overnight. To address these concerns, they are exploring zoning incentives for desired uses, relocation or mitigation funds, and are trying to coordinate specifically with cultural districts.

Commissioner comments:

Ortiz-Cartagena: What do you envision for impact/relocation of businesses? Per existing state code, there are some monetary requirements of a landlord who evicts a business. Supervisor Melgar is also exploring an 'interruption fund' to assist impacted businesses.

Zouzounis: Is there an RFP to help with community focus groups? Not exactly – the City has identified nonprofits to help with outreach and goes through a Community Engagement Contractor to sign an MOU for that work. Are there zoning requirements for certain types of housing? Yes- there are streamlined requirements for 100% affordable projects and we're trying to move all housing along on that speed.

Huie: Is there an opportunity to consider what services are available in certain neighborhoods and match density with those? Yes, but this is a fast and huge project. Community feedback helps. How do we help small proper owners keep their properties (and their small business tenants) from being bought out?

No members of the public requested to speak.

4. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes (Discussion and Action Item)

Motion to approve meeting minutes: Dickerson

2nd: Ortiz-Cartagena

Present: Dickerson, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena, Zouzounis

Absent: Carter, Gregory, Herbert

Motion passes

5. General Public Comment (Discussion Item)

Richard Kurylo, Legacy Business Program Manager reminded Commissioners about monthly Heritage Happy hours.

6. Director's Report (Discussion Item)

Small business permitting: passed Planning Commission 6-0. Now on to land use committee.

Grant program update: SF Shines (design and construction grants) will be closing at the end of the month to address the significant backlog the program is currently experiencing.

Business Training Grant: the application has closed

Ted Egan – Controller has begun hosting working groups to look at tax reform measures

Commissioner comment:

Huie: for oversubscribed grants, how should people reapply? Is there a way to reuse applications? People will have to newly apply – we can't store applications with current technology.

Ortiz-Cartagena: the business training grant was extremely helpful for clients

Huie: We saw a huge interest in participating in Vacant to Vibrant – how can we support that interest?

Zouzounis: When will we know the proposed tax reforms? We're just at the beginning of the process.

Public Comment: Simon Bertrand, Executive Director, SF New Deal: we're planning to host two more rounds of vacant to vibrant cohorts and seeking outside funding to continue this work. We got over 1000 applications with ideas.

7. Commissioner Discussion and New Business (Discussion Item)

Ortiz-Cartagena: Requested a DPH presentation on mobile food changes at State level. Made a shoutout to Clecha for all of their work helping with the business training grants.

Huie: Autumn moon festival. Also highlighted her work with the Prosperity Project to work with a local business and supply graphic art/support, etc.

Zouzounis: Tenderloin is having a set of activations; the last one supported small corner stores and distributed healthy food. Also noted two upcoming small business Galas/Balls.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:03.