



City Council Economic Development Subcommittee

MINUTES (DRAFT)

Via Zoom

Thursday, November 17, 2022 – 8:15 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Vice Mayor Michael Brownrigg, Councilmember Donna Colson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager (CM) Lisa Goldman, Community Development Director (CDD) Kevin Gardiner, Parks & Recreation Director (PRD) Margaret Glomstad, Finance Director (FD) Helen Yu-Scott, Economic Development & Housing Specialist (EDS) Joseph Sanfilippo

Members of the Public Present: John Kevranian (President of the Broadway Business Improvement District (BID)), Jenny Kelleher (President of the Downtown Business Improvement District (DBID)), Bill Chiang (PG&E)

READ AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 14 MEETING

- Approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion of a Possible Smoking Ban in Business Districts

EDS Sanfilippo introduced the topic, establishing that this idea was originally proposed by John Kevranian (President of the Broadway BID). Mr. Kevranian explained that his proposal rose from a variety of complaints he has received over the years, including smoking and littering outside of businesses (particularly after the introduction of parklets). He then explained that, though State law prohibits smoking within 25 feet of a building, the spaces are so near each other on Broadway that smoke will often waft across several storefronts. He also noted that South San Francisco and Palo Alto have smoking bans in business districts, and he would like to see a similar initiative in Burlingame.

Mr. Kevranian further explained that he believed storefront and street signage, in addition to press releases on social media and in-person reminders, could be effective in reducing smoking on the street, given the difficulties of enforcing a ban. The Subcommittee and CM Goldman generally supported the idea but did have concerns over how the City would be able to enforce such an ordinance to avoid taking up police staff time. CM Goldman suggested that the ordinance could instead be used as a tool for business owners to guide the public.

Councilmember Colson wondered if the ordinance would further exacerbate labor shortage issues, if employees who smoke would no longer wish to work in Burlingame. Mr. Kevranian suggested that this is more of a public health issue for customers and other employees. The Subcommittee asked for

attestations from Broadway merchants that they would be in favor of the ordinance, even knowing that enforcement would be limited. They agreed that Broadway should serve as a pilot case before possibly extending the ban to Downtown or other business areas, should the ordinance move forward.

Ideas to Facilitate PG&E Hookups

EDS Sanfilippo introduced the topic, opening the floor to the Subcommittee and Bill Chiang from PG&E to discuss how to better serve residents and businesses. Mr. Chiang noted that PG&E has had many financial difficulties, which will continue through the end of the year due to the end of contracts with temporary laborers.

Mr. Chiang suggested that the City encourage contractors coming in for Building or Planning permits to contact PG&E as early as possible in their process, especially for remodels or any projects increasing energy load. This would allow PG&E to avoid unnecessary delays by 1) notifying them of the project; 2) allowing them to evaluate the project area to understand energy load-bearing needs; and 3) allowing them to provide plan requirements so that projects are not found to be incompatible with existing PG&E equipment in the area.

Councilmember Colson urged PG&E to provide a handout that the City could distribute at the permitting counter to summarize what is needed when contacting PG&E for various types of projects. Mr. Chiang noted that PG&E offers a plan check service that would likely be useful for most projects, and the process could be described in the handout.

Miscellaneous Discussion

The Subcommittee expressed interest in a workshop or research study into workforce challenges, potentially to be titled “Burlingame Talks About Jobs”. This would examine any barriers to integrating a workforce (language/transportation/technological challenges) for Burlingame, and include a variety of testimonials from workers/unions and employers. The Subcommittee suggested starting this effort off with recurring check-in meetings with different sectors over the next year as possible.

Councilmember Colson noted that a similar thought piece is being studied at the state and national level, and more information may be forthcoming before the Burlingame discussion begins in full.

Action Items

- EDS Sanfilippo will inquire with Palo Alto and South San Francisco staff about their smoking bans
- Staff will work with PG&E to distribute handouts for residents and businesses interested in upgrading their systems, providing power to their space, etc.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

The December meeting will include a follow-up discussion on the consideration of a smoking ban pilot and a check-in with the hoteliers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Sanfilippo
Economic Development & Housing
Specialist