

Draft Minutes Economic Development Reform Panel

July 2, 2021, 1pm- 3:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order:** Chair Ann Marie Tracey
Panelist in attendance: Tim Burke, Bobbi Dillon, Guy Guckenberger, Dan Schimberg, KZ Smith, Bernadette Watson and Verna Williams

- II. Approval of 6.25.21 minutes**
Verna Williams moved to approve
Dan Schimberg seconded the motion

- III. Code of Conduct/Whistleblower update:**
 - A. Panel agrees on additional language regarding city employees' right and obligation to report wrongdoing if they have "reasonable cause to believe" wrongdoing is occurring.
 - B. A city employee calling the whistleblower hotline is fully protected under State law as well as at the city level.
 - C. Ann Marie Tracey and Ann Schooley will work on verbiage regarding making information available to the public.

- IV. Campaign Contributions:**
 - A. Panel agrees to the edits suggested by the City Solicitor regarding Campaign Contribution Restrictions.
 - B. Panel agrees on Definition of Candidate for purpose of this section
 - C. Panel agrees with the criteria suggested by the City Solicitor for defining "active developer".
 - i. The City should maintain a list of "active" developers.
 - ii. Bobbi Dillon, will work on combining language regarding "active developer" and campaign contributions.

- V. Development Process and Issues:**
 - A. Involvement of City elected officials in the development contract negotiations.
 - i. Council should not be involved in negotiating or brokering development deals.
 - ii. Council can be involved in providing feedback on the vision of the developer.
 - iii. Council should not be involved in the negotiation of the economic incentive component of any project with a developer.
 - iv. A developer can get feedback from council in an open meeting.
 - v. Recommended that the language be combined for numbers 1 and 2 and delete number 3.

 - B. Economic Development Process
 - i. The City has general small business programing.

- ii. The Department of Community and Economic Development is the main contact for the Economic Development Process.
 - iii. Choosecincy.com is a website that is helpful to developers.
 - iv. The City should assess the effectiveness of current efforts that are already being undertaken, as well as provide training for Council and staff.
 - v. Verna Williams will provide draft language regarding these guidelines.
- C. Development Incentives: The panel agrees with this section with the addition of “industry experts” as another group that could review development incentives.

VI. Summary of Recommendations Proposed for Purposes of 7.9.21 Public Hearing

- A. Ann Marie Tracey will edit and circulate the summary of proposed recommendations that will be released to the public in advance of the July 7th public hearing.

VII. Endorsements of Current Initiatives by City Administration

- A. The panel agrees to endorse the creation of the Office of Constituent Affairs.
- B. The panel agrees to endorse the practice of developer inquiries being referred to the City Manager’s office for a coordinated response.
- C. The panel also agreed to reference the charter amendments passed in May 2021.

VIII. Other business

- A. Before next meeting, EDRP members should draft and review their work product with a goal of having drafts to discuss at the meeting on July 16.
- B. Ann Schooley will circulate to the group information on how to register to speak at the public hearing on July 9th, and asks that panelists forward it to their contacts.

Meeting adjourned 3:00 pm

The Next Meeting is a Public Hearing on Friday July 9, 2021, at 1pm.