

CHAMBER

SAN MATEO COUNTY

Chamber San Mateo County

Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes - Thursday, April 25, 2024 - Noon at LV Mar

CALL TO ORDER by Chief Financial Officer Bill Graham at 12:03pm. - Graham for Gutierrez:

Present: Bailey, Bautista, Buckmaster, Cecil, Chan, Cowan, Friesz, Fong, Gasparini, Graham, Hartnett, Korlipara, Lunny, Martinez, Mosley, Morrissey-Parden, North, Paul, Rendon, Stone, Webb

Absent: Aikins, Aknin, Bartaldo, Beals, Boyd, Elliott, Foust, Gee, Greenway, Gutierrez, Jedkins, Jones, Kamei, Lind, Lopez, Moore, Murphy, Murray, Parmer-Lohan, Pierry, Sacher, Tsai, Wagner, Weber

Other: Arnold Mendoza, Basques, Gallosa

INTRODUCTIONS: Graham welcomed everyone and began introductions, and let the Board know he would be Chairing the Board Meeting today for Gutierrez as she was traveling for work in Los Angeles.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION - Buckmaster: MSC (Hartnett - Stone) to approve the appointment of Diana Bautista to the Chamber San Mateo County, Board of Directors for one-year term expiring December 2024.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION - Buckmaster: MSC (Bailey - Chan) to accept the resignation of Mitchell Bailey from the Chamber San Mateo County Board of Directors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Graham: MSC (Hartnett - Stone) to approve the Board of Directors meeting minutes from March 28, 2024, as emailed.

APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY REPORT - Graham: MSC (Chan - Morrissey Parden) to approve the March - April 2024 Membership Activity report, as emailed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Impact of Redwood City's Gross Receipts - Cecil: Cecil spoke about the City of Redwood City's proposal of a Business License tax. He explained that the city manager's office is extending invitations to many businesses in the city and will be inviting them to a meeting with the mayor in May. Cecil shared this is an important opportunity to share their thoughts on whether this is a good idea or a challenging idea for their business. Cecil urged everyone to come prepared as they advocate, they must explain why this is good or bad, it's important to come with alternatives, the data and provide examples of neighboring cities with different models. He emphasized it's important to share that the business community needs more time. Hartnett shared this is being done to help the city's budgetary needs, but wants to emphasize what Cecil mentioned, that it's important to provide your own analysis of the situation. Hartnett also shared the Chamber has retained a Financial Consultant Brian Ponty, who has an understanding of what's on the table and what's involved. Hartnett shared he will be helpful and will be helping the Chamber think of alternatives. She shared Brian Ponty is very well respected and will be a huge help to the Chamber. Graham thanked the Chamber for their leadership on this issue.

Chamber San Mateo County & MBailey Advisors Engagement Agreement - Buckmaster: Buckmaster shared that she had signed a new agreement with MBailey Advisors through the end of the year to continue the fantastic job Mitch has been doing with our government and communications plan. Hans the resignation of Mitch Bailey from the Board of Director to eliminate any conflict of interest moving forward. Graham shared you can really see the difference since last month's meeting on the communications plan.



Communications Report – Bailey/Buckmaster: Bailey shared that most of the information is in the packet and linked. Buckmaster reminded the Board to please work on and submit their member spotlights.

Governmental Relations Plan Update – Bailey/Buckmaster: Bailey shared Morrissey Parden and himself were at the Belmont city council meeting in person this past Tuesday, and Buckmaster spoke on behalf of the Chamber online regarding the Council Study Session on Belmont Business License Tax. He mentioned that they are very appreciative of Belmont’ leadership for taking a lead on this issue and engaging the Chamber. He shared Morrissey Parden is a champion of this issue, as she previously fought against it in Belmont twice, and that she has an abundance of knowledge on this topic.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

2024 Progress Seminar: Wrap Up - Buckmaster: Shared the Chamber received a lot of compliments and that the AI panel was incredibly well received. She thanked all panelists, shared what a great Progress Seminar it was and provided the date for next year’s Progress Seminar, May 2-4, 2025. She thanked everyone around the table who sponsored this event and explained that the Progress Seminar is not possible without their support. She also shared there were 85 new attendees this year. Bailey thanked the hidden co-chairs of the event and gave a huge thank you to Cecil.

Leadership Redwood City/Belmont/San Carlos/Menlo Park - Gallosa: Gave an overview of Sustainability Day at Redwood LIFE.

Education & Workforce Committee - Buckmaster: Shared the name change of the committee and that Elmer Martinez Saballos is now a co-chair, with Kathy Parmer-Lohan.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Economic Development Committee - Aknin: Buckmaster shared the upcoming presenter is Veronica Klein for Tishman Speyer’s 2300 Broadway project.

Transportation & Housing Committee - Greenway: Buckmaster provided a summary of the committee meeting on behalf of Greenway. She also shared a letter that was sent to Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee.

Belmont Business Committee - Morrissey Parden: Provided an update on the most recent committee which included presentations from the City of Belmont, City manager Kathy Kleinbaum about the Business license tax and retail cannabis and Carol Johnson, Good City Company on the Harbor Industrial Annexation. Stone mentioned the two approved projects are CANNABEL and NUG.

Menlo Park Business Committee - Bautista: The committee did not meet but will meet again in June.

BUSINESS-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Governmental Relations Committee – Cecil: Urged the Board to attend the committee.



MEMBERSHIP SERVICES, FUNDING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Good Morning San Mateo County Virtual Programs - Martinez: Shared Mayor Gee will be sharing his State of the City Address next month.

Off the Clock Networking Event - Martinez: Shared the upcoming Off the Clock is at Counter Point Café on May 15.

11th Annual Birdies for Business Benefit Tournament - Martinez: Explained it's an incredibly fun event and is coming up in September 23rd and the profits raised go to benefit SAMCEDA and Chamber San Mateo County

PRESIDENT & CEO REPORT - Buckmaster: Gave a huge shoutout to the Chamber team, and congratulated Arnold Mendoza on her wedding. She shared there is a lot of work that goes into the Progress Seminar and it's a working event. She thanked everybody for their hard work and acknowledged Basques' 5 year anniversary with Chamber San Mateo County and thanked her for the wonderful job she has done at the Chamber.

CHAIR OF THE BOARD TIME - Graham: Thanked everyone for a wonderful Progress Seminar.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Morrissey Parden shared the upcoming Celebrate the Music event in Belmont.

ADJOURN at 12:57 pm.

Submitted by
Amy N. Buckmaster
President and CEO