

BLUE RIBBON EQUITABLE TASK FORCE ACTION MINUTES - THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Margaret O'Brien.

1. **Roll Call:** Larsen, Katz, Kwamilele, Ortega, Swafford, and Wanzo were present. Williams arrived at 6:04. Chair Takata-Vasquez arrived at 7:32 pm. Moncada-Konte, Oke, and Tsai were absent. There was a quorum.
2. **Public Comment** – No speakers.
3. **Approval of Draft Minutes from April 29, 2021 Meeting**

Board Member Swafford moved, seconded by Board Member Katz to approve the minutes with the correction of Kwamilele's name.

Board polled as follows: Larsen, Katz, Kwamilele, Ortega, Swafford, Williams and Wanzo voted "aye." Seven ayes – motion carried.

4. Staff Updates

- A. Requested Speakers – only speaker to appear on July 22nd will be Barb Leslie from the Chamber – staff has reached out to other speakers and have not received any responses.
- B. Summary of Business Tax Data – data items were consolidated per the Task Force's request and forwarded to the Task Force Members.
- C. Tax Modeling – estimated amounts that would possible be proposed were used for the Tax Modeling.

Discussion held concerning how changes to the models may not be accessible during the presentation and would have to be brought back at another meeting.

Discussion held pertaining to how they want to implement the changes on January 1, 2023.

5. Ad Hoc Committee Updates

- A. Committee A – Job Quality & Employment – they discussed businesses they wanted to reach out to (those with gross receipts of \$2.5 million – manufacturing, professional services, and automobile industry) to have them attend their next meeting.

Board Member Swafford noted he had an acquaintance that had small/mid-size restaurant locations within Oakland that would be willing to come in to speak.

Board Member Katz recommended retail, IT, and media to be included as well.

- B. Committee B – Business Mobility, Real Estate, Attraction & Retention – they discussed incentives (what were the best options). Next meeting, they would be discussing employees and equitable jobs, manufacturing, geography-based incentives, retail-based incentives, as well as fair housing. Discussion was held concerning the feasibility of the recommendations that might be given. They wanted to speak to tax accountants, hold a CFO roundtable as well as speak with Council Members individually.
- C. Committee C – Tax Categories & Implementation – they discussed the tax categories and modeling. Discussed the base model and possible recommendations. Discussed tax holiday for businesses under \$50,000. Discussed consistency among categories and possibly consolidating categories.

Discussion held concerning having a list of which groups a speaker has spoken to that could be addressed at each Task Force meeting.

Discussion held pertaining to Task Force Members attending an ad hoc meeting they are not serving on and being mindful of the Brown Act.

Discussion held regarding the July 10, 2020 supplemental report from Finance referring to exemptions for small businesses.

6. Action Items

- A. Task Force Tax Structure Discussion – Discussion held pertaining to if the Task Force wanted Blue Sky to create models with specific recommendations.
- B. Assignment of specific task(s) to committees –

Vice Chair Larsen stated when they met to prepare the agenda it was discussed that each ad hoc committee address a set of questions around their area of focus and in general – to be discussed with the Full Task Force at the next meeting. Questions were: Incentive vs. Tax Holiday; productivity (rate band based on gross receipts); sector by sector (different for each) – what types of businesses you are trying to attract; and business activity classifications (limit it to six).

Discussion held concerning small businesses.

Discussion held pertaining to a zero rate or flat rate on a progressive scale based on business category versus one flat rate. Consensus was in favor of reviewing that.

Board Member Swafford moved, seconded by Board Member Ortega to work with the questions as discussed and sent by staff at their ad hoc committees and provide their responses at the next Task Force meeting.

Discussion held pertaining to sending the requested questions to staff who will disseminate them to the Task Force.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

- C. Master Calendar – review and update – Staff Member Dang presented the master calendar. He stated the calendar was approved at the second meeting – he reviewed the timeline and noted changes that need to be made and decide if they want to take a summer recess or still meet.

Board Member Kwamilele moved, seconded by Board Member Ortega to change the notes on the master calendar for the July and September meetings to note they are regular meetings instead of the notes from the original master calendar.

Board polled as follows: Larsen, Katz, Kwamilele, Ortega, Swafford, Williams and Wanzo voted “aye.” Seven ayes – motion carried.

Discussion held concerning whether the committee wanted to keep the two summer recess dates or make them meeting dates.

Board Member Kwamilele moved, seconded by Board Member Williams to make the two of August meetings regular meetings instead of having a summer recess.

Board polled as follows: Takata-Vasquez, Larsen, Katz, Kwamilele, Ortega, Swafford, Williams and Wanzo voted “aye.” Seven ayes – motion carried.

7. Agenda requests for future meetings

No other items.

8. Open Forum

No speakers.

9. Adjournment

Margaret adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Next meeting will be June 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm.