

BLUE RIBBON EQUITABLE TASK FORCE ACTION MINUTES - THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Chuck Maurer.

1. **Roll Call:** Takata-Vasquez, Larsen, Katz, Kwamilele, Oke, Ortega, Swafford, and Williams, were present. Moncada-Konte, Tsai, and Wanzo were absent. There was a quorum. Kwamilele left the meeting at 6:31
2. **Public Comment** – No speakers.
3. **Approval of Draft Minutes from May 13, 2021 Meeting**

Chair Takata-Vasquez moved, seconded by Board Member Oke to approve the minutes as presented with name corrections.

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

4. Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Discussion held pertaining to how Chamber would be the speaker at the next Task Force meeting.

Board Member Katz questioned what the process was to have a speaker placed on the agenda for the Task Force.

Staff Member Dang noted Board Members should let staff know what they would like them to do.

Discussion held regarding who requested the Chamber speak at a Task Force meeting.

Board Member Kwamilele explained how the Chamber had appeared to have been mentioned in every ad hoc committee’s discussion and that was why the Chamber was invited to speak at the full Task Force meeting, as well as the Chamber had been active in all the discussions on the business tax. She noted at the last meeting it was stated that if there were other speakers that the Task Force would like to speak at a meeting, they would need to bring those names to a meeting for the Task Force to vote on.

Board Member Oke suggested the Task Force decide if they wanted the Chamber to speak, as well as have the subcommittees provide the names of those, they would like to have speak so that the Task Force would have all the names and decide as a group who should speak.

Discussion held concerning how staff had received responses only from the Chamber and another group who was not available until August.

Discussion held regarding staff sending out the list of those who had been sent a request to speak at the Task Force.

Discussion held pertaining to how ad hoc committee members can share information between each other regarding items discussed at their ad hoc meeting.

- A. Committee A – Job Quality & Employment – they discussed inviting certain businesses to speak to their committee, discussed the questions they would like to ask those businesses (quality and how to understand how a change would impact their business regarding jobs). Also discussed their view on a progressive tax.
- B. Committee B – Business Mobility, Real Estate, Attraction & Retention – they discussed progressive versus flat, and incentive programs. They discussed inviting CAMEO and real estate developers to their committee.
- C. Committee C – Tax Categories & Implementation – they discussed the model and was involved in getting it generated. Discussed fundamental questions for the Task Force. Discussed possibly coming categories.

5. Staff Updates

- A. Tax Modeling – discussion of tax scenarios.

Matthew Newman provided a preliminary review of the tax model they had been building over the past few weeks. He noted they took the historical gross receipts and estimated what they would be for 2023-2024 and estimated the revenue three different ways (static, increase, variable). He questioned if the \$27 million was for 2019 or 2023 as that would affect the recommendation.

James Paci, Blue Sky Consulting reviewed the models they had created. One of the models included a \$60 minimum, another involved multiple based on gross receipts amount.

Discussion held concerning how the models were not based on recommendations from the Task Force, they were showing different rates and the affects it would have on the money collected.

Discussion held pertaining to what the definition of small business was and in relation to business tax.

Discussion held regarding how you cannot tax individual businesses differently but could look more closely into the sector category.

Discussion held concerning how the \$27 million was a figure that was originally based on 2019 gross receipts but was still used as the target due to the pandemic.

6. Agenda requests for future meetings

Discussion held pertaining to how the list of names of those who had been requested to speak with their responses.

7. Open Forum

TaShon Thomas questioned if the chart that was presented would be available online after the meeting.

Mitesh Bhakta, City Attorney's office stated he would need to confirm, but would work with staff to provide some type of document that the public could view.

8. Adjournment

Margaret adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Next meeting will be June 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm.