



### 3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 11, 2009 SYNOPSIS

Corrections:

- Correct spelling of Commissioner in item 10

Motion: Approval

Motion:            1) Olivo            2) Ho            X App            no

### 4. ORAL PETITIONS/COMMENTS

- Andrea Jaramillo reintroduced herself
- Commissioner Uzoh discussed the Monterey Bay International Trade Association conference on April 3

### 5. BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION(S)

- Deferred until 6:30 pm to accommodate the SJSV Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Pat Dando
- Pat Dando (beginning at 6:37) spoke to the group
- She praised them for their role in encouraging small business growth
- The oldest chamber in California (135 years) and also among the largest (San Diego and Los Angeles)
- They've recently purchased a new facility at Santa Clara and Market; roughly 10 years ago the Chamber sold the site where the Fairmont annex is located
- Key factors facing small businesses currently
  - i. Credit is very tight and is a barrier to growth; the Chamber is working with the State and Federal government to maintain this ultimate economic stimulator – small businesses
  - ii. Loss of customers – ripple effect; also a matter of bad news is reducing consumer confidence; The Chamber continues to work to encourage more business to business transactions
  - iii. Downsizing is resulting to loss of identity; The Chamber helps small businesses market themselves
  - iv. Increased taxes aren't helping; The Chamber is working to advocate for lower taxes and where that isn't possible a level playing field
  - v. Affordable health care; The Chamber works especially at the National and State level to support programs that make it possible for everyone to have insurance
- The Chamber has a variety of policy committees
  - i. Development review – meets with the Department of Planning, Building and Code enforcement to encourage strategic improvements in permitting; The Department

- Director and the head of the policy committee will be visiting Los Angeles as a demonstration of what is possible
  - ii. She would encourage the Commission to look at signage because it is an area that would be supportive of business needs
  - iii. They have a variety of events to allow business connections as well as information activities (recently Lew Wolf, Access Forum, Ebby Awards and Women in Leadership)
  - iv. The placement of a stadium would be supportive of surrounding areas as an economic
  - v. Access Sacramento trip also provides access to the legislature and promotes the exchange of information between the State Legislators and Chamber members
- Membership \$495 per year
  - i. Members briefing (and free lunch)
  - ii. Classes
  - iii. Advertising
  - iv. Chamber has 2,400 members and 2,200
  - v. During tough times many businesses particularly see the value – the Chamber has been growing
- They are supportive of youth-oriented programs
  - i. Internships
  - ii. Invitation to various events, particularly the access events as well as the Women in Leadership program and Legends and Leaders event.
- They have held procurement fairs in the past; She feels that the City's outsourcing competition policy isn't working
- Failing correcting the competition policy, the RFP process should be improved to reduce the amount of expenditure required to encourage more small business participation

#### 6. REPORT ON COMMISSION FOCUS GROUPS

- The Clerk's Office is conducting focus groups to better understand the needs of the Commissions.
- Did not address the SBD Commission's memo to expand its roles
- Moved back to item 5 at 6:37

#### 7. REPORT FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

- None

#### 8. STAFF REPORT

- April Community and Economic Development Committee
- Roster

**Woodworth to provide more information regarding the competition policy**

9. CHAIR REPORT

- None

NEW AGENDA ITEMS – 5 MIN.

- Independent Contractors (May)
- Commission Annual Report and Workplan and Memo regarding SBD Commission Expansion (April)
- Enterprise Zone Expansion

10. ADJOURNMENT 7:30 PM