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CITY OF CULVER CITY FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY OF CULVER CITY
FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

June 12, 2024
7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Lachman called the regular meeting of the City of Culver City Finance Advisory Committee to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Dan Patacchia Meeting Room at City Hall.

Members Present:

ANDREW LACHMAN, Chair
MARC BAUER, Vice Chair
LEIGH AUSTIN, Member*
ANISSA DI VINCENTE, Member
JOHNNIE GRIFFING, Member
KEITH JONES, Member**
KEVIN LACHOFF, Member
VIKRAM THAKUR, Member

*Member Austin arrived at 7:05 P.M.

**Member Jones arrived at 7:16 P.M.

Staff Present:

Lisa Soghor, Chief Financial Officer
Elizabeth Shavelson, Financial Systems and
Purchasing Manager
Michael Towler, Finance Manager
Melody Dysim, Revenue and Budget Supervisor
John Figueroa, Senior Account Clerk
Jonathan Villasana, Account Clerk

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Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Bauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Member Austin joined the meeting.

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Public Comment for Items NOT on the Agenda

Chair Lachman invited public comment.

John Figueroa, Senior Account Clerk, indicated that no public comment had been received.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

John Figueroa, Senior Account Clerk, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of the Minutes for the Finance Advisory Committee Meeting of May 8, 2024

MOVED BY MEMBER LACHOFF AND SECONDED BY MEMBER DI VINCENTE THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 8, 2024.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: AUSTIN, BAUER, DI VINCENTE, GRIFFING, LACHMAN, LACHOFF, THAKUR
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: JONES

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

(1) Receive Reports from the 2024 Government Efficiency Ad Hoc Subcommittee, (2) Approve the Innovation Award Nominees Chosen by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee, (3) Provide Direction to Staff, if Deemed Appropriate

Member Griffing discussed effective outreach and the extended deadline that enabled a new record for applications received; quality check of submittals; panel review; proposed recipients and their innovations and accomplishments; number of trophies created; and the quality control process.

Member Griffing detailed the projects selected for the Efficiency Award, the Sustainability Award and the Best Innovation Award as well as other projects deserving of honorable mention.

Chair Lachman commented on sustainability and efficiency impacts related to the creation of a one-page pamphlet on how to use the TAP card by Dia Turner which is especially useful for students who use buses to get to and from school.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding creating a more sustainable trophy to present in the future; the finite budget; the ceremony date; excellent projects considered; domination of awards by the Public Works Department; whether to skip a year to allow departments a chance to build up their innovations; the proposed notification email; calendar invitations; and sending notification and appreciation to those who submitted but did not win.

Member Jones joined the meeting.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR BAUER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER LACHOFF THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: APPROVE THE LIST OF NOMINEES TO RECEIVE THE THIRD ANNUAL INNOVATION AWARDS.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: AUSTIN, BAUER, DI VINCENTE, GRIFFING, JONES, LACHMAN, LACHOFF, THAKUR

NOES: NONE

ABSENT:

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding ordering the trophies; alternative awards for next year; the vendor; previous efforts to use a Culver City business; issues with lead time and cost; and agreement to investigate a local vendor for next year.

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Item A-2

Receive Reports for Discussion from the (1) Assets Ad Hoc Subcommittee, (2) Structural Revenue Review Ad Hoc Subcommittee, and (3) Affordable Housing Ad Hoc Subcommittee, and Provide Direction to Staff, if Deemed Appropriate

Vice Chair Bauer indicated that the Assets Ad Hoc Subcommittee had met but had nothing to report.

Chair Lachman indicated nothing to report from the Structural Revenue Ad Hoc Subcommittee; he indicated that the Affordable Housing Ad Hoc Subcommittee had met twice; discussed contacts provided by Committee Members; and the plan to have a panel of four people; and the proposed date of July 22, 2024 for an event to be held in Council Chambers.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding outreach; providing a blurb to staff; the fact that most people do not interact with affordable housing until it is proposed for their neighborhood; raising community awareness; benefits to raising awareness before a project is in process; educating people about the process; those who believe that government should handle the entire process; providing incentives to private industry to make a meaningful impact; the fact that government does not have enough resources to do projects themselves; outreach to other cities; assistance from Assistant City Manager Jesse Mays; targeting small cities in southern California; identification of panelists; the Los Angeles Community College System; and ensuring effective timing for outreach.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding Project Homekey; the focus on mid-level affordable housing; pricing for affordable housing units; 100% affordable housing; mixed affordable housing; area median income (AMI); an instance where a teacher moved in, got a raise and had to move out; covenants; income certification; compliance reports; the affordability component in the Housing Element; Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers; difficulty achieving affordability with smaller developments; and annual rates set by the county of Los Angeles.

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Item A-3

Discussion of July 10, 2024 Agenda

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the availability of a report from the Assets Ad Hoc Subcommittee; providing a debrief on the Innovation Awards; the workplan; and the annual bylaws review.

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Public Comment – Items NOT on the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Lachman invited public comment.

John Figueroa, Senior Account Clerk, indicated that no public comment had been received.

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Items from Committee Members/Staff

Lisa Soghor, Chief Financial Officer, introduced Melody Dysim, Revenue and Budget Supervisor; discussed approval of the budget; approval of the Payroll Manager position; how this new position will help with reporting; compliance with CalPERS and the IRS; lack of depth in the department; the retirement of Mary Noller, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, and how the Department is preparing for the ensuing loss of institutional knowledge;; concern with drawing down on reserves; money spent on homeless issues that are not typically city functions; lack of support from the county and the state for homeless initiatives; the need for operating dollars for homeless initiatives; lack of funding for ongoing operations for Project Homekey; and clarification on the Measure C report from the previous meeting.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding trickle down funding from the housing bond recently passed; the citizen's initiative for a Los Angeles County measure on the November ballot; the sunset of Measure H in 2028; additional local return to cities based on the Annual Homeless Count; the ability to count the number of people housed in Project Homekey; and the amount Culver City puts into the system via Measure H vs. the amount of money it receives from Measure H.

Chair Lachman congratulated those Members who were reappointed; expressed appreciation for the team; discussed accomplishments; initiative; and he noted that he had two more years on the Committee.

Member Griffing reported that he and Member Thakur would be graduating from Leadership Culver City on June 21 led by former mayor Jim Clarke; discussed his task to facilitate a non-partisan City Council Candidate Forum at Elks Lodge on June 26 at 6:00 P.M.; number of expected attendees; fliers available with additional information; the RSVP page; and posting of the video on YouTube.

Discussion ensued between Members regarding questions provided to candidates in advance; allowing an opportunity for people to understand where the candidates stand on various issues; and the Culver City-centric subject matter.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:50 p.m., the City of Culver City Finance Advisory Committee adjourned their meeting to a regular meeting to be held on July 10, 2024.

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John Figueroa
SECRETARY of the Culver City Finance Advisory Committee
Culver City, California

APPROVED

Andrew Lachman
CHAIR of the Finance Advisory Committee, Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

Date