

ARLINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes  
 Regular Meeting  
 Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Member Name	Present	Virtual	Absent
Amal, Tommy		X (Personal)	
Baker, Sarah	X		
Bates, Kate	X		
Boyd, Ryaan			X
Brewer, Janetta		X (Personal)	
Burchard, Anthony	X		
Cooper, Steve	X		
Dunn, Bill	X		
Fedorchak, Stephen	X		
Garthwaite, Ben	X		
Gregorios, Nick	X		
Kachadorian, Charles	X		
Lynch, Catherine			X
Mansur, Sid	X		
Mason, Brad	X		
Meyyan, Praveen	X		
Oyler, Joseph		X (Personal)	
Pedowitz, Scott	X		
Pritchard, Evan	X		
Sampaio, Flavia			X
Sorrell, Paula	X		
Sumpter, Meredith	X		
Van Horn, Andy	X		
Yam, Kevin	X		
Weinstein, Matthew	X		

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TOGETHER**

The June EDC (Economic Development Commission) meeting was held at the Arlington Economic Development (AED) office. Chair Bill Dunn called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Dunn asked for a motion to approve the minutes for both the June 24 and the July 9 meetings (the EDC did not hold an August meeting.) There were no comments or edits to the

meeting minutes. The motion carried, and both sets of meeting minutes were approved.

### **3. CHAIR'S REPORT – BILL DUNN**

Chair Dunn introduced the new EDC members; Sarah Barker, Evan Pritchard, Charles Kachadoorian and Meredith Sumpter.

### **4. AED DIRECTOR'S REPORT – RYAN TOUHILL, DIRECTOR**

AED Director Ryan Touhill introduced new AED staff member, Caitlin Anderson, as the liaison to the EDC. Director Touhill mentioned an upcoming event with the Arlington Chamber on commercial real estate and will focus on adaptive reuse. The event will occur on October 29, before the County Board acts on the new adaptive reuse policy. Director Touhill also announced that the Business Investment Group received the Gold award for the Arlington Innovation Fund (AIF) from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) in the Entrepreneurial and Small Business Development Excellence category. The AIF was also recognized by the Washington Business Journal with a 2024 Fire Award, further cementing its reputation as a catalyst for innovation in the region.

### **5. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

#### **STAFF PRESENTATION ON SMALL BUSINESS – LOURDES MORALES, AED BIZLAUNCH**

Lourdes Morales gave an overview of the small business landscape in Arlington. Lourdes also discussed the services BizLaunch provides to small businesses, including education, business support, marketing, and promotion.

#### **SMALL BUSINESS PANEL DISCUSSION**

Chamber President Kate Bates moderated a panel of small business owners who operate in the Arlington business community to talk about the benefits and challenges of operating a small business here. Panel members included: Jennifer Mulchandani, (Arlington Strategy), Ryan Brown (Arlington Law Group) and new EDC member, Charles Kachadoorian (Good Company Doughnuts and Café). Panelists began with self-introductions and why they chose Arlington as their business location. The panel discussed the resources they utilized to support their small businesses, such as BizLaunch and SCORE. They discussed challenges such as hiring talent to meet their needs and finding smaller office spaces to rent. The panel discussion concluded with questions from the Commission members.

### **6. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **COMMERICAL VACANCY WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

Since the last meeting in July, the Commercial Vacancy Working Group held two meetings which included brainstorming sessions on adaptive reuse and preparation of remarks to speak to the CoStar section during the July County Board meeting.

Director Touhill briefly discussed the work staff is doing on the new policy for adaptive reuse, which is scheduled to go to the Board for a Request to Advertise (RTA) in September before being considered for adoption by the Board in November. Kate Bates clarified that since the RTA is currently on the consent agenda, there is no need for oral testimony, only written testimony.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:** None

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Dunn adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m.