



SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, March 26, 2024

In-Person Meeting, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Civic Center Plaza, 14th Floor Conference Room –
1200 3rd Ave, San Diego, CA 92101

Chair: Austin Evans | **Vice Chair:** Natasha Salgado

Board Members: Ania Kaminska, Austin Evans, Brandon S. Johnson, Donna Deberry, Jason Paguio, Jenna Hanson, Natasha Salgado, Sarah Mattinson, Shane Beard, Sunny Lee, and Valery Belloso.

Staff Liaisons: Alex Southard and Sean Karafin.

- Item 1: Call to Order
- Meeting was called to order at 8:34 am
- Item 2: Action: Roll Call
- In attendance: Austin Evans, Sunny Lee, Ania Kaminska, Sarah Mattinson, Natasha Salgado, Brandon S. Johnson, Valery Belloso, and Donna Deberry.
 - City Staff: Alex Southard and Sean Karafin
- Item 3: Action: Approval of February 27, 2024 Minutes
- With a motion by Sarah Mattinson and a second by Natasha Salgado, the board voted to approve the February 27, 2024 minutes.
 - Yes: Austin Evans, Sunny Lee, Ania Kaminska, Sarah Mattinson, Natasha Salgado, Brandon S. Johnson, Valery Belloso, and Donna Deberry.
 - Abstain: None.
 - Absent: Jason Paguio, Jenna Hanson, and Shane Beard.
- Item 4: Presentation from Valery Belloso, Accessity – Update on the Community Development Financial Institutions Equitable Recovery Program
- Valery Belloso provided an update on Accessity’s Emerge Program. Last year, Accessity was awarded the largest grant they had ever received. This award was dedicated to supporting minority-owned businesses most impacted by the pandemic.

- Accessity was able to provide loans of \$2,000-\$50,000 with low interest rates and offer a grant component of 10% of the loan amount. The grant is redeemable after 6 months of consecutive payments.
- Accessity has disbursed over half a million dollars since November 2023 to 30 businesses. Three million dollars remain, and they are pushing to disburse funds by next year.

Item 5: Discussion: San Ysidro Business Improvement District Advisory Board (Sean Karafin)

- The Economic Development Department will manage the San Ysidro Business Improvement District (BID) in Fiscal Year 2025 while the department finds a new organization to manage the district.
- BID state law requires the appointment of an advisory Board for every BID.
- The Board discussed supporting Economic Development Department, acting as the advisory Board in the interim, and developing a subcommittee of assessment payers to report to SBAB.
- With a motion by Sunny Lee and a second by Natasha Salgado, the board voted to signal to the Council a willingness to be appointed as the advisory board for the San Ysidro BID for FY25.
 - Yes: Austin Evans, Brandon S. Johnson, Donna Deberry, Ania Kaminska Natasha Salgado, Sarah Mattinson, Valery Belloso, and Sunny Lee.
 - Abstain: None.
 - Absent: Jenna Hanson, Jason Paguio, Shane Beard

Item 6: Discussion: [AB 817 - Open Meetings: Teleconferencing: Subsidiary Body](#) (Liaison Southard)

- The Board learned about AB 817, which would allow for non-decision-making bodies to participate in virtual teleconferencing similar to the format during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Item 7: Discussion: FY2025 Budget

- The Board briefly continued the discussion around the FY2025 budget and verified the advising letter was sent to the Mayor and Council.

Item 8: Action: Draft Advising Letter (Chair Evans)

- With a motion by Sarah Mattinson and a second by Valery Belloso, the board approved that Chair Evans would write a letter supporting AB 817.
 - Yes: Austin Evans, Brandon S. Johnson, Donna Deberry, Ania Kaminska Natasha Salgado, Sarah Mattinson, Valery Belloso, and Sunny Lee.
 - Abstain: None.
 - Absent: Jenna Hanson, Jason Paguio, Shane Beard

- Item 9: Committee Report
- Development Services Department Technical Advisory (Board Member Beard)
 - No update.
- Item 10: Staff Report
- Economic Development Department (Liaison Southard)
 - Board members previously expressed interest with inviting elected officials to upcoming meetings. The following officials will be attending at upcoming meetings: April – Councilmember Kent Lee; May – Mayor Todd Gloria; and June – Councilmember Campillo.
 - Provided an update on the Emergency Response Grant for Small Businesses and Nonprofits. EDD staff are moving through applications and making awards as quickly as possible.
- Item 11: Board Member Comments
- a. Suggested items for future meetings
- Item 12: Non-Agenda Public Comment
- Item 13: Adjournment
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

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