

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Robertson welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order 10:02 AM

2. Attendance

Corrie Betts
Andréa Comer
Avery Gaddis
Subira Gordon
Michael Jefferson
Ojala Naeem
Melvin Medina
Maurice Reaves
Paul O. Robertson
Edwin Shirley
Shirley Skyers-Thomas
Kelli-Marie Vallieres
Kevin Walton
Andrea Hawkins

Staff: Ginne-Rae Clay, Executive Director, SEC; Kristina Diamond, Legislative & Communications Manager, SEC; Karen Colebut, Paralegal Specialist, SEC; Jennifer Edwards, Program Manager, SEC; Vera Lembrick, Program Manager, SEC; Arlene Galindo-Jimenez, Program Manager, SEC; Jennifer Stevens, Associate Accountant, SEC; Ana Rosa, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director Ginne-Rae Clay, SEC.

3. Approval of December 5, 2023, SEC Meeting Minutes

Paul Robertson asked for a motion to approve the December 5, 2023, meeting minutes.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson
Second – by Ojala Naeem
In Favor – All
Opposed – None
Abstentions – None
Motion passed.

4. Executive Session

a. Discussion on Pending Litigation involving the Council.

Paul Robertson asked for a motion to move to Executive Session.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson
Second – by Andrea Comer
In Favor – All

Opposed – None
Abstentions – None
Motion passed.

Chairman Robertson took attendance upon return from Executive Session.

Attendance:

Corrie Betts
Andréa Comer
Edwin Shirley
Avery Gaddis
Michael Jefferson
Melvin Medina
Maurice Reaves
Ojala Naeem
Paul O. Robertson
Edwin Shirley
Kelli-Marie Vallieres
Kevin Walton
Shirley Skyers-Thomas
Subira Gordon

5. Vote on Equity Joint Venture Application Recommendations.

a. Approvals

i. ACDS.0001213 High Acre Delivery

Motion – by Michael Jefferson

Second – by Andrea Comer

In Favor – All

Opposed – None

Abstentions – None

Motion passed.

b. Denials

i. ACRE.015683 – C3 EJV LLC

ii. AMHF.00082787 - Sweetspot Stanford LLC

Motion – by Michael Jefferson

Second – by Ojala Naeem

In Favor – All

Opposed – None

Abstentions – None

Motion passed.

6. Executive Director's Report and Recommendations.

- Staffing Update – SEC will soon post three positions:
Legal Program Director
Program Manager -Workforce Development
Research Analyst
- Program updates-

- The Cannabis Revolving Loan Fund – SEC has received sixteen applications for the loan fund. Executive Director Clay stated that staff is working very closely with DECD to review and underwrite those requests and they are moving that program forward.
- Community Reinvestment – Executive Director Clay stated that some of the things they are working on based on our last committee meeting. We are looking at the best practices from our Pilot Program and we are going to be adding some recommendations from the Council:

Grant making process

Grant eligibility requirements (who can apply)

Recommended grant caps (min/max awards)

Use of funds (impact/sustainable approach)

Identification of community partners – leveraging SEC funds

Update Reinvestment Timeline – ongoing

- Social Equity Plan Approvals
Executive Director Clay stated that two Social Equity Plans were approved in November and one in December. One Workforce Development Plan was approved in December. Executive Director Clay added that Social Equity Plans and Workforce Development Plans are coming in at a steady pace and we are getting them reviewed.
- Community Conversations – Executive Director stated that the second round is beginning now. Trusted Messengers have been identified in New London and Stamford and will begin a PSA process with them immediately.
The RFP has been posted to our website. We will leave it open as we continue to recruit Trusted Messengers in all of these communities. We are also reaching out to the municipalities themselves. The timeline for community conversations is between January and March.
- SEC Goals -January
Executive Director Clay state that the goals for the staff of the SEC are as follows:
 - Complete PSAs
 - Community conversations
 - Oaksterdam University
 - Complete the Outreach Plan – in process
 - Complete Pre-Lottery Education & Outreach Technical Assistance
 - SEC Newsletter forthcoming in the spring

7. Committee's Recommendations –

- Councilwoman Naeem stated that the Executive Director Clay covered most of the information regarding the Reinvestment Committee in her Executive Director's report. The committee meeting has been moved to the 19th.
- Councilwoman Comer gave her report. The Finance committee would be later to discuss line items and other matters.
- Councilwoman Gordon expressed concerns for the marketing plan of the Outreach
- Councilwoman Vallieres stated that she had some concerns about the funding distributed to the community conversations.

Discussion ensued.

8. For the Good of the Order – (New Business, Updates, and Information) None

9. Adjourn

Chairman Robertson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson

Second – by Andrea Comer

In Favor – All

Opposed – None

Abstentions – None

Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.