



MINUTES
SEC REGULAR MEETING
April 4, 2023, Meeting 10:02 A.M.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1. Call to order
Meeting was called to order by Chair Paul O. Robertson at 10:02 a.m.

2. Attendance
Juliana Avallone
Corrie Betts
Avery Gaddis
Michael Jefferson
Melvin Medina
Ojala Naeem
Marc Pelka
Edwin Shirley
Subira Gordon
Kelli-Marie Vallieres

Council members absent:
Andrea Comer
Kevin Walton

Staff: Ginne-Rae Clay, Executive Director; Jennifer Edwards, Program Manager; Komla Matrevi, Staff Attorney; Kristina Diamond, Communications & Legislative Program Manager; Jennifer Stevens, Associate Accountant; Saron Saadeh, Senior Manager Government, and Public Sector CohnReznick; Ray Kissiday, Manager Government and Public Sector CohnReznick;

3. Approval for the March 7, 2023, Meeting Minutes. The Council voted unanimously to approve the March 7 minutes.
4. Executive Session on Pending Litigation
Chair Robertson asked for a motion to move to the executive session to discuss pending litigation involving the Council.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson
Second – by Edwin Shirley
In favor – All
Opposed – None
Abstentions – None
Motion passed.



Chair Robertson called the meeting back to order and recalled the roll. Councilmember Melvin Medina, Kevin Walton, and Andrea Comer were not present.

5. Vote on Equity Joint Ventures

Chair Robertson asked for a motion for recommendations to approve three Equity Joint Venture applications.

Motion – by Edwin Shirley

Second – by Avery Gaddis

Chair Robertson noted the applications were ACRE0015669, submitted respectively by BUDR Hartford Holding 3 LLC, ACR0015670, submitted by BUDR Hartford Holding 2 LLC, and ACRE0015671, submitted by BUDR Hartford 4 LLC. He asked for approval.

Motion – by Edwin Shirley

Second – by Ojala Naeem

Kelli-Marie Vallieres

In favor – All

Opposed – None

Abstentions – None

Motion passed.

6. Vote on Workforce Development Plans

CohnReznick

Chair Robertson requested a motion to approve Workforce Development plans submitted by Connecticut Social Equity, LLC; Green Cab Company, LLC; BUDR Hartford Holding LLC; and Curaleaf Groton, LLC.

Motion – by Avery Gaddis

Second – by Subira Gordon

In favor – All

Opposed – None

Abstentions – None

Motion passed.

Chair Robertson noted the four Workforce Plans are approved.

7. Social Equity Plans

Paul O. Robertson

Chair Robertson requested a motion to approve the Social Equity plan submitted by MCEJV, LLC.

Motion – by Michael Jefferson

Second – by Edwin Shirley

In favor – All

Motion passed.

Chair Robertson declared the Social Equity plans are approved.

8. Executive Director's Report Ginne-Rae Clay
Director Clay provided staffing, program, and legislative updates and April goals. She noted that vacant positions had been posted with the Department of Administrative Services and were working to identify finalists. We were waiting on the final banking relationship to settle between the Attorney General's office and the Treasurer's office regarding the Cannabis Loan Fund, which was close to being resolved. The Council had put together a reinvestment plan to be submitted as we moved forward with the Notice of Availability of Funds. Council was identifyDirector Clay also provided updates on the loan program and community reinvestment efforts. Discussion ensued.

9. Committee Reports Paul O. Robertson, Chair
a. Finance Committee Andréa Comer, Chair
Chair Robertson stated that there would be a report at the next session.

- b. Governance Committee Ojala Naeem, Chair
Chair Naeem noted that the Committee had not met since the start of the year. Still, there would be a meeting in a couple of weeks. They would visit the attendance policy and look at community structures to ensure efficiency, effectiveness, and best use of all Council members' time. In addition, they conducted the Executive Director evaluation. Executive Director believed the DECD was working on combining the results, which should be shared by the next Council meeting during the executive session.

- c. Reinvestment Committee Ojala Naeem, Chair
Chair Naeem provided an update and indicated they had finalized an RFP for community conversations in partnership with the Outreach Committee, which would be held over the coming two months to get a community sense of critical areas for reinvestment, which the Council could look at the areas of gaps. Next, they completed the NOFA for reinvestment for FY2023. She outlined what they were considered related to the organizations. Next, they would review guidelines for the review of the applications. Finally, they and the staff submitted a proposal request for the Office of the Governor, OPM, and Appropriations for FY2024 for reinvestment.

Discussion ensued.

- d. Outreach and Marketing Committee Subira Gordon, Chair
Chair Gordon rehashed the Executive Director's report. The Outreach Community created RFQ for community conversations, and the information will be presented back to Council. Councilwoman Gordon asked that Council members who had gotten the proposal share it with their networks. She believed there would be an Outreach Committee meeting on April 14, when applications were due. They would send an invitation to the Full Council for that meeting.

- e. Policy Committee Edwin Shirley

- Council Member Shirley shared that the Committee had reviewed and discussed a micro-cultivator program allowing the Council to approve two additional micro-cultivators. Staff was working on finishing the final details of the program before Council could vote on it. In addition, staff presented to the Policy Committee a form the office would use to receive notices of change of ownership of Social Equity cannabis licensees. The form will be posted on the SEC website for public use. Discussion ensued.
- f. Workforce Development Committee Kelli-Marie Vallieres
Council Member Vallieres reported that the Committee did not have a meeting due to lack of quorum. She recommended that the Workforce Committee should move under the Reinvestment Committee, considering that the budgets were tied together under that line item, allowing for more robust discussion and decision-making.
10. Cannabis Accelerator Program Update Dale Sky Jones, President of OU
Dale Sky Jones announced the hiring of Tamika McPhail, the Program Manager, showed a PowerPoint and provided updates on the accelerator program. Discussion ensued.
11. For the Good of the Order – New Business, Updates, and Information
Council Member Jefferson commented on the 55th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King and brought the council’s attention on the achievements of Dr. King. Discussion ensued.
12. Adjourn
Chair Robertson heard a motion to adjourn and the Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 1:08pm.