

City of Arts & Innovation

BUDGET ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2025, 5 P.M.
PUBLIC COMMENT IN PERSON/TELEPHONE
ART PICK COUNCIL CHAMBER
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, CA 92522

PRESENT: Chair Williams, Vice-Chair Vandenberg, Commissioners Benavidez, Weinrich, Bello, Wroten, Hutchins, Thomas, Langner, and Scott-Coe

ABSENT: Commissioners Ward and Holley

STAFF PRESENT: Sergio Aguilar, Kristie Thomas, Susan Wilson, Diana Alegria, Elizabeth Martinez, and others

The Budget Engagement Commission meeting was convened at 5:02 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REMOTE PARTICIPATION PER ASSEMBLY BILL 2449

There were no Budget Engagement Commissioners requesting to participate remotely.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

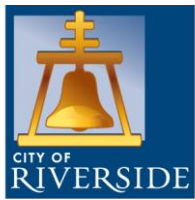
There was no one wishing to address the Commission.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Following discussion, Commissioner Weinrich moved, and Commissioner Vandenberg seconded, to nominate Vice Chair Benavidez as Chair. Commissioner Langner moved, and Commissioner Thomas seconded, to nominate Commissioner Williams as Chair. Commissioner Scott-Coe moved, and Commissioner Thomas seconded, to nominate Commissioner Hutchins as Chair.

Commissioners Langner, Thomas, Weinrich, and Williams voted to elect Commissioner Williams as Chair. Commissioners Bello, Wroten, Vandenberg, and Benavidez voted to elect Vice Chair Benavidez as Chair. Commissioners Scott-Coe and Hutchins voted to elect Commissioner Hutchins as Chair. As a result, there was a tie vote between Vice Chair Benavidez and Commissioner Williams.

Following further discussion, Commissioners Scott-Coe, Williams, Weinrich, Hutchins, Thomas, and Langner voted to elect Commissioner Williams as Chair. Commissioners Bello, Wroten, Benavidez, and Vandenberg voted to elect Vice Chair Benavidez as Chair.



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Commissioner Wards and Holley were absent. As a result of the vote, Commissioner Williams was appointed Chair.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Following discussion, Commissioner Thomas moved, and Commissioner Williams seconded, to nominate Commissioner Hutchins as Vice Chair. Commissioner Benavidez moved, and Commissioner Weinrich seconded, to nominate Commissioner Vandenberg as Vice Chair.

Commissioners Benavidez, Weinrich, Bello, Williams, Vandenberg, and Scott-Coe voted to elect Commissioner Vandenberg as Vice Chair. Commissioners Wroten, Hutchins, Thomas, and Langner voted to elect Commissioner Hutchins as Vice Chair. As a result of the vote, Commissioner Vandenberg was appointed Vice Chair.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Hutchins moved, and Commissioner Scott-Coe seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented below, affirming the appropriate actions for each item. The motion was carried unanimously with Commissioners Ward and Holley absent.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2025, were approved as presented.

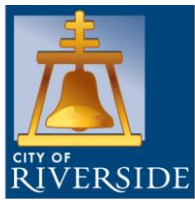
ATTENDANCE

The absence of Commissioner Holley was excused from the February 13, 2025, meeting.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

ABSENCE

Commissioner Hutchins moved, and Commissioner Thomas seconded, to excuse the absence of Commissioner Weinrich from the February 13, 2025, meeting. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Ward and Holley absent.



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AMEND CHAPTER 2.90 OF THE RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.90.030 TO REDUCE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BUDGET ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION

Commissioner Hutchins moved, and Commissioner Thomas seconded, to; (1) to amend Chapter 2.90 Section 2.90.030 of the Riverside Municipal Code to reduce the membership of the Budget Engagement Commission to seven Ward seats and four Citywide seats for a total of eleven members, with Resident and Business seat appointments at the discretion of the appointing elected official; (2) consider a pathway to membership reduction as follows; (a) immediately eliminate vacant seats for Wards 4, 6, and 7, as well as one of the two vacant Ward 2 seats; (b) as terms expire or members resign, eliminate their seat provided that at least one representative remains for the respective ward; (3) if the will of the Council is to reduce the mayoral appoints from four to two, the BEC recommends the Council follow a similar pathway to membership reduction such that the following occurs: (a) immediately eliminate vacant seats for Wards 4, 6, and 7, as well as one of the two vacant Ward 2 seats and one of the Citywide seats; (b) as terms expire or members resign, eliminate their seat provided that at least one representative remains for the respective ward and two representatives remain for the Citywide seats; (5) forward the recommendation to the Governmental Processes Committee for consideration. The motion was carried by Chair Williams, Vice Chair Vandenberg, and Commissioners Wroten, Hutchins, Thomas, and Scott-Coe voting aye. Commissioners Benavidez, Weinrich, Bello, and Langner voted nay, and Commissioners Ward and Holley were absent.

COMMISSION MEMBER/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

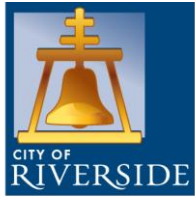
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER UPDATE

Kristie Thomas, Finance Director, provided the Chief Financial Officer update.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE BUDGET ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

Commissioner Weinrich requested an update on the organic waste program.

Commissioner Benavidez requested an update on the Measure Z line item for programs and services for seniors and people with disabilities.



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Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH MARTINEZ
Senior Administrative Assistant