

## **SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, October 27, 2025 4:30 P.M.  
City Hall, Room 400, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

### **SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS**

Cynthia Huie, President; Miriam Zouzounis, Vice-President;  
Ron Benitez; Dimitri Cornet; Lawanda Dickerson; Rachel Herbert; William Ortiz-Cartagena;

#### **1. Call to order and roll call**

Meeting called to order at 4:37pm.

Present: Benitez, Cornett, Huie, Herbert, Zouzounis (late)

Absent: Dickerson, Ortiz-Cartagena

#### **2. Approval of Legacy Business Registry Applications and Resolutions (Discussion and Action Item)**

Michelle Reynolds, Program Manager, Office of Small Business presented the following Legacy Business Registry applications:

- a. Gaspare's Pizza House & Italian Restaurant (Application No.: [LBR-2024-25-052](#))
- b. The Waterfront Restaurant (Application No.: [LBR-2025-26-010](#))

Public comment:

Daniel Indelicato, Gaspare's

Angela Yu, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Chan in support of Gaspare's

Commissioner comments: Commissioners congratulated applicants.

Motion to approve Legacy Business Registry Applications: Huie

2<sup>nd</sup>: Benitez

Ayes: Benitez, Cornett, Huie, Herbert, Zouzounis

Absent: Dickerson, Ortiz-Cartagena

#### **3. BOS File 251004 –Shared Spaces Program (Discussion and Action Item)**

Melanie Matthewson, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Mandelman and Monica Munowitch, Shared Spaces Program Manager, SFMTA, presented an Ordinance amending the Administrative Code provisions related to the Shared Spaces Program to remove the Planning Department as a coordinating entity conducting design review, eliminate application requirements of documented community outreach and neighbor notice, and eliminate public accessibility and alternate public seating requirements; amending the Public Works Code to eliminate requirements of public notice of application; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Public comment:

Ralph

Simon Bertrand, SF New Deal, in support

Alma Castellanos, CLECHA, in support

**Commissioner comments:**

Huie: Excited to remove these hurdles. Modifying public bench and parklet hours are going to be very helpful. Are there other improvements in the works? Sup. Mandelman was particularly concerned with storage kept on shared spaces so these focus on addressing that issue.

What's MTA's capacity to run the program? MTA is currently doing it, so this reflects current practice.

Zouzounis: Is there enforcement of vacant parklets? Yes and no – the team has focused on compliance; 350 are permitted and many working to be in compliance. D8 is exploring ways to alleviate parking pressure – especially frustration when parklets are used for storage.

Zouzounis: This is a shift from public use of space to private use. Is 311 still the best resource tool to tell the public where public space is?

Motion in support of 251004: Huie

2<sup>nd</sup>: Cornet

Ayes: Benitez, Cornett, Huie, Herbert, Zouzounis

Absent: Dickerson, Ortiz-Cartagena

**4. San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Presentation (Discussion Item)**

Rolando Tirado, Small Business Manager, SF Chamber of Commerce spoke about small business initiatives and resources offered through the Chamber of Commerce. Programming includes Small Business Week and merchant walks throughout SF. Small businesses can engage in free programs without being members. Looking ahead, the Chamber plans to help local business enterprises connect to larger business partners.

Zozuounis: Our merchant group has had several conversations about vendor relations especially given supply chain challenges. Rolando: Yes, we can help share what RFPs local businesses can apply for and get connected.

Huie: How would you recommend a small business get more involved? Start by talking with your business neighbors – getting involved in the Chamber may be intimidating, so talk to neighbors first about collaborating. Build a coalition of business partners.

Huie: How can the Chamber help big businesses understand our small business community? When we talk about driving return to office, small businesses are key to that success and big businesses rely on them to draw folks.

**5. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes (Discussion and Action Item)**

Motion to approve 9/22/25 draft meeting minutes: Zouzounis

2<sup>nd</sup>: Herbert

Ayes: Benitez, Cornett, Huie, Herbert, Zouzounis

Absent: Dickerson, Ortiz-Cartagena

**6. General Public Comment (Discussion Item)**

No members of the public requested to speak.

**Director's Report (Discussion Item)**

OEWD opened a new grant program – SF Thrives offering up to \$10k in reimbursement. Businesses must have existed prior to 2020. Specifically focused on SOMA, mid Market, Tenderloin, Western Addition, and Treasure Island. Submit an eligibility verification form to apply.

Leg update: DPH recently introduced CMFO program legislation. The Mayor introduced the local version of state street vending laws to identify commonly stolen items.

**7. Commissioner Discussion and New Business (Discussion Item)**

Huie: CDMA has new leadership and I met with Tim and he wants new business people and new energy for the organization if people are interested in getting involved.

**8. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:40.