



**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: September 8, 2020 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm**  
**Location: Zoom platform**

**Present:** Joseph Jung, Sonja Brooks, Mike Thaler **Absent:** Alan Wilk

**Staff:** Shari Godinez

**Guests:** Jared Spenser (Rep. County Supervisor Keith Carson District 5)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>
1. Welcome and Establish Quorum	Quorum was established	
2. <u>Public Announcements</u>	<p><b>Jared:</b> Shari had given Jared some questions regarding the homeless population, but Jared stated that although some issues are dealt with on the city level, other issues are dealt with by the county. Jared stated that the questions Shari had were city related. Therefore, Jared could not answer those specific questions. Jared stated one of the groups Alameda County has is the <b>Eastbay EDA (Eastbay Economic Development Initiative)</b>. They deal with more strategic regional economic development. Jared brought this particular resource to Shari because of the <b>East Bay Economic Directors Council</b>. This council is made up of economic development directors from different cities around the East Bay. Because KONO is a BID, the level of conversation focuses on county issues. He stated that this group has better information from the county position. Some of the information that this group puts out is different in that they answer questions such as “how can my business open up for outdoor dining”?</p> <p><b>Jared shared these links:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="https://eastbayeda.org/covid-19-resources/">https://eastbayeda.org/covid-19-resources/</a></li> <li>2. <a href="https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/">https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/</a></li> <li>3. <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ft8lp4Zi-gVE2yUojlxZugmofYf_fsA1hTLLiezJsg/edit">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ft8lp4Zi-gVE2yUojlxZugmofYf_fsA1hTLLiezJsg/edit</a></li> </ol>	

<p><b><u>2. Continued</u></b></p>	<p><b>Shari</b> asked Jared how the OakFF outdoor event differs from the outdoor flea markets that are now allowed to operate.  <b>Jared</b> stated that the permits for OakFF are <b>city</b> permits.  Jared also stated that the flea market permits have some caveats.  <b>Joseph</b> asked if the flea markets were getting permits from the County of Alameda and Jared stated that flea markets also get their permits from the <b>city</b>.  Jared stated that <b>“HOW”</b> the flea markets open is one of the stipulations of them getting a city issued permit to operate.  <b>Shari</b> then asked Jared if the OakFF event would be permitted to reopen because the flea markets are open. <b>Jared</b> stated that it may be possible depending on what the State mandate will allow.  <b>Jared</b> stated that there was a small “First Friday” that happened already, but <b>Shari</b> stated that it was not OakFF. OakFF has not had an event since March 2020.  Jared stated that <b>food trucks are allowed</b> at this time throughout the city. All of the elements of OakFF have to be looked into. He stated that these conversations are at the <b>city level</b>, not on a county level.</p>	
<p><b><u>3. Staff Reports:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Executive Director</u></b>  <b>Shari Godinez</b></p>	<p><b>Shari:</b> Stated that most of her time has been spent on the bike lane issue.  Shari has also been working with Shahbano of Workbench regarding the incubation project for OakFF called <b>“Elevate Artist Accelerator”</b>. This project empowers artists with technology tools and practical skills they need to thrive in the digital age.  This project will use part of the CAC grant.</p>	
<p><b><u>4. Action Item:</u></b></p> <p><b>Approve Minutes from August 4, 2020</b></p>	<p>Mike motioned to approve the minutes from August 4, 2020</p> <p>Sonja stated that she wants some comments to be amended.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Item 10</b>, Discussion because Sonja stated that it sounds “irresponsible” and she believes it was taken out of context.  Sonja asked for the amendment to state: “It was a “comment” that the space, with modifications, two or three people could work in the office.” Maybe part time once or twice a week with rotating who works what days.</li> <li><b>“Sonja accused Shari of being pretentious”</b> , which Sonja said was “untrue”.</li> </ol> <p><b>(Note: The recording has Sonja stating those words, which are currently in the minutes from August 4, 2020.)</b>  <b>Sonja</b> stated that it was a comment based on <b>Shari’s</b> “former statement”. <b>Sonja</b> stated that it was <b>not the tone of a “personal attack as the minutes read”</b>. <b>“It was only a reference made pertaining to her point of view regarding the matter as mentioned in the first statement.”</b></p>	<p><b>Action:</b>  <b>Shari to amend the minutes reflecting Sonja’s request</b></p> <p><b>Task:</b>  <b>Shari to send recording to Sonja regarding Item 10.</b></p>

**4. Continued**

**Sonja** stated that the second part of that “**clearly indicates that it was in reference to a statement**”. **Sonja** stated that she “**does not understand why the minutes were written in this tone or this manner.**” **Sonja** objected to having it written that way because that was not the tone in which she believes it was meant.

**Shari** stated that she is not clear on how **Sonja** wants the minutes amended, but stated that she is happy to send the recording to **Sonja** for her to review. **Sonja** agreed to receive the recording from **Shari**.

**Joseph** stated that **Sonja** has the right to ask for the amendment based on **Sonja** stating it was not received the way it was intended.

**Shari** again asked how **Sonja** wanted to amend her statement.

**Sonja** stated that “**Did she have to use Pretentious in? Yes, I used that term, the accusation was unfair**”.

**Sonja** continued stating that what she wants her comments to be amended to is as follows:

**“Sonja’s statement or Sonja’s comment was that Shari’s accusation was pretentious and unfair.”**

**Joseph** stated that all statements should be written from a “neutral point of view”.

**Sonja** stated that “**if the tone of the conversation came off that way, that was not my intention ever, ever**”.

**Joseph** asked that **Shari** amend the minutes and then circulate the amended minutes to the KONO Executive Committee members.

**Joseph** stated that the Executive Committee will not vote to approve the minutes today and will be voted on at the next meeting.

**Sonja** agreed and accepted **Joseph**’s statement.

**Shari** stated that per this discussion at the last meeting (**Item 10**), **Joseph** stated that the Executive Committee would discuss this matter and get back to **Shari** with their answer. **Shari** stated that it had been a month since the last meeting and she has not received an answer from the Executive Committee.

**Joseph** stated that the Executive Committee has talked about it and will talk about it again. The Executive Committee did not have an answer as of this meeting, (**September 8, 2020**).

**Joseph** asked **Shari** how she and other employees feel about working in the KONO office now. He asked if the KONO employees feel “comfortable” now. (**September 8, 2020**)

**Shari** stated “**no**”. She went on to state that “**as I stated at the last meeting, it is still against Alameda County Health Codes for the office to resume.**”

**Shari** stated that it was shared in the KONO newsletter, which shows the dates of when the county is opening things up. **Shari** stated that offices are not on the list to open up right now.

**4. Continued**

Sonja stated that she looked up the state and the county regarding this and Sonja stated: **“For office space, based on size, I understand that large workspaces and buildings such as Clorox, but not even on that scale, where you have numerous offices and contained within one place, so they have to be accountable, so therefore the buildings can’t open numerous offices or allow that without limited operations and even that’s with the judgement of that company. But KONO being an office that is less than eight people or less than ten and not at any given time is there more than five people even with Streetplus’ safety. We are talking about no one operating in that office or being there thirty five hours, not one person. So, if we were only referring to, this really segues going back to our last conversation when I suggested or made the comment about two or three people, I believe in that same meeting I also mentioned that if we’re talking about limited times, limited hours and not really any people necessarily having to overlap more than two people at one time since everyone else is part time, so weather it’s ten to twenty hours or thirty five hours, but that doesn’t mean they’d be in the office that whole time.**

**If it meant that it’s cutting down expenses that you bear, printing or utilizing whatever it is that can be condensed in one day, all I’m saying or suggested is that the space as it is with modifications, whether it meant plexiglass in between it’s the square footage per person that we have in that space is ample distance be it twelve feet from each other. That’s the only thing that I’m saying, even if it were just one day a week and I’m not saying or suggesting, but I think the burden of your work and maybe the expenses that you feel you’re accruing from working at home and there’s things that you had to do or if you met with Bolton or you’re out, if those things were done in a way and managed your time manage, so if you had to go to KONO one day a week, I don’t see the restrictions applying in that manner as restrictive for small offices that are independent of other businesses and offices around them.”**

**Joseph stated that “there is a difference in opinion as to whether or not any KONO employee’s can come to the office and work under the current Alameda County order, so that is a question we have to answer.”** Joseph asked **Shari** to again share with the Executive Committee why anyone can’t come to work (office) and asked **Sonja** to find the county order stating that KONO employees can go back to the office. Then the Executive Committee will make a decision regarding this.

**Shari** stated that now the focus is on whether or not KONO employees will come back to the office when Shari asked the Executive Committee for compensation on KONO employees working from home.

**Shari stated that “It feels like because I asked for compensation, you’re saying oh no no, you’re asking for compensation so you need to go back into the office.”**

**4. Continued**

**Sonja** stated that “those are two different conversations”. **Shari** stated that “they are not two different conversations. Anytime I bring up the issue around compensation for work from home, it goes right back to saying, “why can’t you just go back into the office?”” “It is not practical to say that I can go into the office two or three days a week. Am I supposed to take my whole computer setup, my monitor, everything and drag it back into the office for one or two days a week, it’s just not practical.”

**Sonja** then stated: “Well if it’s not practical for you to do that, then it’s just not practical. But, I see it as two different conversations. Even though they may be overlapping, but they are two different conversations so whether it’s safe or not to really a safe space for people or limited individuals or a person to come and work in the space, that technically is a different topic and you’re right, it would be totally according to what the health and safety officials deem what’s safe, safe spaces to work in. But, I think we’re like kind of pulling straws, we’re not a big office space, we are a small office space and I do know small independent places where there’s only two or three or very few number of people with very strict scheduling that everyone knows there’s a schedule of who’s coming in, when they’re coming in, that’s as needed and if there’s any reason that’s preventing you from doing, you know, or being what you would do normally, I’m just saying don’t let the distance of being from KONO or whatever not be the excuse. Safety is a whole other reason and again, logistically, if it’s too complicated, because I didn’t know, this is the first time I am being made aware that physically you have to do a whole break down and set-up of your monitor, etc. I’ve never heard that before, it’s the first time I’m hearing that. And that being the case, I would not want to have to break down and separate my office from running into the office to do a few things one day a week. So, I understand that. With that, I’ll remove my comment, that’s it.”

**Joseph** stated that since Shari and Sonja have a difference of opinion regarding this issue, that they find the county order to support their individual positions.

**Sonja** stated that she will no longer refute this since Shari clarified to Sonja. Sonja then stated that if a person doesn’t feel safe that’s one thing. If there’s really a physical threat of health and safety that’s another thing. She went on to say that “it’s a fine line in how you define that? I’m not gonna get into this back fight. I don’t choose to do so. Shari doesn’t feel safe so I’m not going to suggest or recommend that anybody else should come into the office, but I think for anybody that feels they need the space to work in to take care of some things, then whatever we need to do to make them feel secure and safe I’m recommending that we do whatever extra measures if that individual chooses or elects to come in two or three days a week.”

**4. Continued**

**Mike** asked how many people are in the office right now every day.

**Shari** stated that right now there are five ambassadors in the office.

**Mike** asked Shari, “**don’t they work on the streets?**”

**Shari** stated “**of course, yes.**”

**Mike** then stated, “**So they’re not in the office. Who is sitting in the office every day?**”

**Shari** stated that “**Kevin is in the office every day and his ambassadors come into the office to take breaks and lunch.**”

**Sonja** stated, “**With that being said too, Kevin is not like an eight hour a day office person. So, I’m sure that, you know, there’s a certain amount of time, hours he’s spending maximum at the office just based on the nature of his work. So that’s you know, I’m sure that fluctuates from day to day. So whether or not he’s actually there like forty hours a week, thirty or whatever, in the office and again if it’s one person depending on where he’s sitting, you know again, we’re talking about partitions or just around a desk, I don’t know, but I think that’s something we need to get clarified from him.**”

**Mike** asked, “**And the people who come in for lunch, they don’t sit in your private office do they?**”

**Shari** stated, “**They sit in the office for lunch, I’ve been in there and they’re all sitting at the table and I think the conversation we are totally ignoring is the fact that it’s California law to compensate people to work from home. And having the phone is forwarded to my cell phone, so I’m using my personal equipment for work, and that conversation just seems to be ignored and all you want to talk about is getting me back into the office.**”

**Sonja** stated to Shari to “**Take it easy, I think that you’re elevating and I don’t want you to get worked up over this so please, just this is not going back and forth. I hear you, I think we all hear you. I already made it clear I am not in opposition. It’s clear for anybody that does not feel safe about coming into the office. Two, Joseph already answered the second part of that is that we will have the discussion. Joseph, it’s up to you as the president how soon you want to answer to you know, to Shari’s request for the additional compensation for working at home. And I think with that we can move forward.**”

**Joseph** stated, “**Yeah, we will resume the conversation. We were already in discussion already and we will resume that conversation this week.**”

<p><b>4. Continued</b></p>	<p><b>Shari</b> stated that <b>“It’s been seven months and I’ve been told the same thing multiple times, so even if you decide “no”, you could at least say “no”, but to keep telling me that you’re going to talk again and talk again and nothing happens is very disappointing.”</b></p> <p><b>Joseph</b> stated again that, <b>“We will have a discussion this week.”</b></p>	
<p><b>5. Action Item:</b></p> <p><b>Approve KONO &amp; OakFF financial reports through July 31, 2020</b></p>	<p>Sonja motioned to approve KONO &amp; OakFF financial reports through July 31, 2020</p> <p>Mike seconded the motion</p> <p>All approved</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> <b>KONO &amp; OakFF financials were approved</b></p>
<p><b>6. Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>Update on KONO Protected Bike Lane</b></p>	<p><b>Shari</b> stated that she has meetings with the planning committee, which is the City Administrator's office, the DOT, the Bike Coalitions, the Department of Race and Equity and Lynette McElhaney's office . She went on to say that she doesn't feel as if they got very far. She stated that at the last meeting, they wanted KONO to conduct more surveys and Shari did not want to repeat the surveys she already had conducted so Shari is working on a survey for OakFF vendors and attendees since this “protected” bike lane does affect the OakFF event. Shari stated that she found out from Temescal that there was a business owner there from Sagrada, who conducted a survey himself on top of the survey KONO conducted but for business owners. <b>Per the survey from Sagrada, all of the business owners stated that it negatively impacted their businesses.</b></p> <p>This person also surveyed all the businesses in Temescal and he put that survey together last year. He sent the information from the survey to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and to all of the City Council about how they were opposed to the “protected” bike lane. The DOT and the city of Oakland ignored their input apparently, Shari stated.</p> <p><b>Shari</b> is set to work with <b>Dave Campbell</b> from <b>Bike Eastbay</b> to incorporate survey questions for bike riders.</p> <p>Shari spoke at the <b>BPAC</b> meeting where <b>there were at least a half a dozen bikers who spoke against the “protected” bike lane stating it was too dangerous.</b> Shari stated that there were only a couple of people, including <b>Dave Campbell</b>, who spoke in favor of the “protected” bike lane. Shari stated that one of the <b>commissioners on this committee is a biker and she spoke against the bike lane.</b></p> <p>Shari sent out a petition on September 4, 2020 and she has already received four hundred (400) signatures so far. <b>This petition is asking the city of Oakland to change the “protected bike lane” back to a buffered bike lane.</b> Shari is also getting a lot of support from one of the <b>Temescal Board Members, who signed the petition along with the Temescal business owners to have the city change the bike lane to a buffered lane.</b></p>	

<p><b><u>6. Continued</u></b></p>	<p><b>Joseph</b> stated that he has noticed hundreds of bollards in the KONO district. Joseph also stated that with all of those bollards in place, the OakFF event can't be held. Joseph stated that the bike lane needs to be changed to a buffered bike lane and have all of those bollards removed. Joseph stated that he will sign the petition that is on the website and asked the Executive Committee to sign it as well if they are in opposition to the "protected bike lane".</p>	
<p><b><u>7. Discussion:</u></b>  <b>Update on PPP forgiveness</b></p>	<p>Shari received a payroll protection forgiveness instruction form from the bank, which she shared with the KONO accountant. Shari stated that she is going to figure out how much of the PPP loan needs to be used by <b>October 20, 2020</b>. Shari stated that based on current payroll, will we have one hundred percent of the loan forgiven. If one hundred percent forgiveness is not possible by <b>October 20, 2020</b>, Shari stated that it would make sense to bring back at least Greg Harris, the festival coordinator, on to the OakFF payroll to meet the requirements of the PPP loan otherwise, we would have to turn the remainder of the loan back in or take it on as a loan for the remainder of the funds.</p>	
<p><b><u>8. Discussion:</u></b>  <b>Update on OakFF grant funded projects</b></p>	<p>Shari stated that the Cultural Arts Grant was to be spent by June 2020. Shari is in the process of asking them for an extension and hopefully, OakFF can host a virtual event to hire musicians to perform virtually. This grant is specifically for musicians. Shari stated that the grant she is working on with Shahbano is an incubation for artists. Shari stated that the third grant is the ArtWall grant, which Shari was going to use for the "Construction Wall" where the upcoming boutique hotel will be, but that communication seems to have "stalled out" and for some reason. Shari stated that we may need to find another project for the grant money. Shari stated that as of yet, we haven't received the Cultural Arts grant check yet.</p>	
<p><b><u>9. Action:</u></b>  <b>Set September 15, 2020 Board Agenda</b></p>	<p><b>1. Discussion Item: Bike Lane</b> <b>2. Financials</b> <b>3. Minutes</b> <b>If Shari receives any information in the next week about loan forgiveness, it can be a discussion item.</b></p>	
<p><b><u>*Next Executive Committee Meeting</u></b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday, October 6th, 2020 at 6:00 pm</b>  <b>Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm</b></p>	

Minutes by: Shellae Ruffin & Edited by Shari Godinez