



**FRESNO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Presiding:
Ruth Evans, Chair
Brian Domingos, Vice Chair**

Committee: Government Affairs Council
Chairperson: Ruth Evans
Vice-Chair: Brian Domingos
Meeting Date/Time: September 10, 2014
Meeting Place: Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Committee attendees: Bill Avakian, Ruth Evans, Sieg Fischer, Ryan Jacobsen, Victoria Salisch, Larry Fortune, Lorraine Salazar, Brian Domingos, Debbie Hunsaker, John Taylor
Committee absences: Nick Amendola, Cam Maloy, Al Smith, Austin Ewell, Lydia Zabrycki, Scott Miller
Staff: Rachel Eslick

CALL TO ORDER

- **Ms. Evans called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.**
- **Approval of Minutes**
Larry Fortune made a motion to approve the August 13th meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Lorraine Salazar and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Clint Olivier – Fresno City Council District 7

Council Member Clint Olivier addressed the GAC about a project that's in the early stages of development in his district. Smart & Final would like to build a new store on the NE corner of Blackstone and Clinton Avenues on a lot currently housing a closed Chinese restaurant, an abandoned home, and a tire store on a month to month lease. He expects it to generate about \$150,000 in property taxes and \$90,000 in sales tax revenue each year. The grocery store would add about 85 jobs, 15 of them full time, and 100 construction jobs. The developer is still working with the City to try to get the project approved.

Larry Fortune made a motion to support Smart & Final and Rich Development Enterprises' effort to redevelop the NE corner of Blackstone and Clinton Avenues. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Legislative Items

A.2014 Water Bond (Prop 1)

Details were provided on the Water Bond that recently passed through the California Legislature and was signed by Governor Brown. It'll be on the November ballot at Prop 1.

Victoria Salisch made a motion to support Prop 1. Debbie Hunsaker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Old Business

Fresno's 2035 General Plan

Staff presented the comments that came out of three previous GAC workshop meetings on the land use and transportation chapters. Staff developed a list of the top 10 concerns from the business community, including lack of emphasis on job creating, the length and cost of the plan, the absence of a development code, the ambiguous rate of infill versus green field development, the limitation on plan amendments, the discouragement of cul de sacs, the pacing of development, undefined terms like complete neighborhoods and balanced city, full funding of public safety for annexed development, lack on emphasis on preserving high standards for level of service (LOS) as it related to commute times.

Jeff Roberts of Granville Homes, who attended the workshop meetings, offered his own comments on the plan, echoing many of the same concerns but highlighting a couple more too. Al Solis, a consultant and Vice Chair of the Chamber's EARTH committee, said he supports GAC staff recommendations to the plan.

Council Members Clint Olivier and Lee Brand also offered their opinions of the plan thus far.

Victoria Salisch made a motion to submit our comments to the City in a letter, noting we can't complete our commentary until the Development Code is released and vetted. Lorraine Salazar seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bill Tracking Update

Staff updated the status of the state bills the GAC has taken positions on. Of the 16 bills still alive, the GAC opposes 11. An emphasis will be placed on AB 1897 and AB 32, asking Governor Brown to veto AB 1897 and halt the inclusion of transportation fuels under the cap.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ruth Evans thanked members who attended Eggs & Issues with Congressman David Valadao and encouraged attendance at the State of the County Breakfast on Wednesday, September 24th at Valdez Hall. She also encouraged more participation in future General Plan and Development Code discussions.

ADJOURNED

- **Meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.**