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:	April 8, 2015
Meeting Place:	Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Committee attendees:	Ruth Evans, Sieg Fischer, Bill Avakian, Brian Domingos, Lydia Zabrycki, Nick Amendola, John Taylor, Debbie Hunsaker, Al Smith, Larry Fortune, Ryan Jacobsen, Scott Miller
Committee absences:	Cam Maloy, Lorraine Salazar, Austin Ewell, Randy Dhindsa, Victoria Salisch
Staff:	Rachel Eslick

CALL TO ORDER

- **Chair Ruth Evans called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Christina Hall of Congressman Tom McClintock's office spoke about HR 1668, which she would present during the legislative portion of the meeting. Raj Rakkar of Assemblyman Henry Perea's office also had proposed bills to discuss, but would bring them up later in the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Debbie Hunsaker made a motion to approve the March 13th minutes. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ISSUE PRESENTATION

Development Code

Dan Zack from Fresno's Planning and Development Department presented a synopsis of the newly released Development Code. The current code was adopted in 1962, so the new version is a complete overhaul and attempts to streamline redundant information, omit outdated language and reflect the principals of the recently adopted General Plan. Zack said staff had dozens of meetings with private developers and community members to write this draft, which has a simpler, more user-friendly layout.

The public review period is 60 days. The deadline to submit comments is June 1, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Zack would like to work with the Fresno Chamber as it reviews the code to help answer questions and address concerns.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

A. <u>AB 543 (Quirk) Proposition 65: exposure</u>
Larry Fortune made a motion to support this bill. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. <u>AB 588 (Grove) Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004</u>
Brian Domingos made a motion to support this bill. Larry Fortune seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. <u>AB 1038 (Jones) Workplace Flexibility Act of 2015</u>
Ryan Jacobsen made a motion to support this bill. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. <u>AB 1468 (Baker) Civil Rights: disability access</u>
Staff was directed to write a letter addressing all the proposed legislation to curb lawsuit abuse and send it to committees ASAP.
Larry Fortune *made a motion to support this bill. Debbie Hunsaker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

E. <u>AB 1470 (Alejo) Working housr: overtime</u>
Several council members requested further clarification on this bill because the available language was ambiguous. Details were emailed to the GAC which state the bill attempts to create a similar program as federal law which presumes that highly compensated employees earning at least $100,000 are properly classified as exempt employees. Employees doing manual labor or other specified duties would not qualify.
Larry Fortune made a motion to support this bill. Nick Amendola seconded the motion and it passed 7-3.

F. <u>AB 463 (Chiu) Pharmaceutical Cost Transparency Act of 2015</u>
Scott Shimamoto, Area Pharmacy Director for Kaiser Permanente presented this bill for support. He said it would shine a light on what's driving the price of prescription drugs and create public discussion. Further, he said government grants are being used to produce drugs, and the public deserves to know how that money is being spent. One particular drug that's receiving the most attention is Sovaldi, which treats Hepatitis C. Each pill is $1,000. A full treatment costs $84,000.
Lydia Zabrycki made a motion to oppose this bill and Sieg Fischer seconded the motion. It passed with Ryan Jacobsen taking a neutral position.

G. <u>HR 1668 (McClintock) Save Our Water Act</u>
Debbie Hunsaker made a motion to support this bill. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

H. <u>SB 152 (Vidak) Personal income taxes: earned income credit</u>
Brian Domingos made a motion to support this bill. Al Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

I. <u>AB 1265 (Perea) Public Private Partnership Sunset Extension</u>
Sieg Fischer made a motion to support this bill. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed with Debbie Hunsaker abstaining.

J. <u>AB 1176 (Perea) California Clean Fuel Partnership</u>
Brian Domingos made a motion to support this bill and Lydia Zabrycki seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

K. <u>AB 857 (Perea) CA Clean Truck Act</u>
Sieg Fischer made a motion to support this bill. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

L. <u>AB 722 (Perea) Small Business Access to Capital through Crowdfunding</u>
Scott Miller made a motion to support this bill. Sieg Fischer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

M. <u>AB 99 (Perea) Mortgage Debt Forgiveness for Californians</u>
Scott Miller made a motion to support this bill. Larry Fortune seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

N. <u>AB 185 (Garcia) California New Markets Tax Credit</u>
Debbie Hunsaker made a motion to support this bill. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

O. <u>AB 544 (Mullin) Income taxes: credits: research activities</u>
Larry Fortune made a motion to support this bill. Sieg Fischer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

P. <u>AB 546 (Leno) Health care coverage: rate review</u>
Debbie Hunsaker made a motion to oppose this bill. Sieg Fischer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ISSUE TRACKING UPDATE

Staff provided an up-to-date list of issues the GAC has taken positions on so far in 2015 at the local, state and federal levels. As elected leaders vote on the issues, their votes are recorded on the sheets. The updated tracking sheets are also available online on the Fresno Chamber's website. The tracking sheets are included in every GAC packet to improve communication between the Chamber and the offices of our elected officials.

City positions – 3
County positions – 2
State positions – 24
Federal positions – 4

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ruth Evans commented on how wonderful the Eggs & Issues event was with District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp on April 3rd and encouraged attendance at future breakfasts. The Chamber golf tournament is on May 4th and the State of the City with Mayor Swearengin is June 3rd. She also asked the GAC to mark their calendars for May 27th to attend Cal Chamber's Leg Day in Sacramento.

ADJOURN

- **Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.**