



**Economic Development Subcommittee
Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft**

Monday, June 8, 2026

9:00 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Okrepkie opened public comment at 9:21 am.

Present: 2 - Chair Jeff Okrepkie, and Eddie Alvarez

Absent: 1 - Victoria Fleming

2. REMOTE PARTICIPATION UNDER THE BROWN ACT (Gov. Code § 54953.8)

None.

3. MODIFICATIONS TO AGENDA

None.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Draft Minutes - April 13, 2026.

Approved as submitted.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Janice Karrman provided comments.

7. MATTERS HELD IN COMMITTEE

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Presentation from staff on AI Exposure & Workforce Trends

Recommended Action: Information Only.

Program Analyst Rachel Beer presented.

Chair Okrepkie opened and closed public comment.

Committee Members provided comments and feedback.

8.2 Economic Development Presentation from Dr. Robert Eyler - Tourism

Recommended Action: Information Only.

Dr. Robert Eyler presented.

Dr. Eyler and staff responded to Committee Member inquiries.

Chair Okrepkie opened and closed public comment.

Committee Members provided comments and feedback.

9. PARTNER REPORTS

9.1 Partner Presentation from Santa Rosa Metro Chamber of Commerce on
Welcome Center Options

Recommended Action: Discussion.

Ananda Sweet, CEO of the Santa Rosa Metro Chamber, presented.

Ananda Sweet responded to Committee Member inquiries.

Chair Okrepkie opened public comment.

Janice Karrman provided comments.

AJ Trombetta provided comments.

Karissa Cruz provided comments.

Chair Okrepkie closed public comment.

Committee Members provided comments and feedback.

Planning and Economic Development Director Gabe Osburn
reported on next steps.

10. ACTION ITEMS

None.

11. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

11.1 Receive an Update and Report from Staff on Santa Rosa Special Event Processes

Recommended Action: Discussion.

Arts and Culture Manager Meredith Knudsen and Arts and Events Specialist McKenzie Nelson presented.

Staff responded to Committee Member inquiries.

Chair Okrepkie opened and closed public comment.

Committee Members provided comments and feedback.

Chair Okrepkie recessed the meeting at 10:44 am.

Chair Okrepkie reconvened the meeting at 10:49 am.

11.2 Receive an Update and Report from Staff on the Asawa Panel Project

Recommended Action: Discussion.

Staff Knudsen presented.

Staff responded to Committee Member inquiries.

Chair Okrepkie opened public comment.

Janice Karrman provided comments.

Chair Okrepkie closed public comment.

Committee Members provided comments and feedback.

- 11.3** Receive a report from staff on the Roseland area and maintaining the unique cultural identities of Santa Rosa neighborhoods

Recommended Action: Discussion.

Chief Economic Development Officer Scott Adair, Director Osburn, and Small Business Ombudsman Rafael Rivero reported.

Staff responded to Committee Member inquiries.

Chair Okrepkie opened and closed public comment.

Committee Members provided comments and feedback.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Okrepkie adjourned the meeting at 11:46 am.