

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
City Council
Services, Safety & Parks Committee

6:30 PM
August 9, 2023

MINUTES

Council Chambers, 135 E.
Sunset Way, Issaquah WA

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Committee Members:

Tola Marts, Chair
Barbara de Michele
Russell Joe

Administration/Staff:

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator
Chris Grabowski, Deputy City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marts called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public spoke at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of July 18, 2023 - **CM Joe moved (de Michele 2nd)** to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion passed 3 – 0.**

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **ID 1457 Affordable Housing Capital Funding & Pioneer Program**

After the staff presentation the following people spoke at public comment:

1. Brian Runberg – Runberg Architects – spoke regarding affordable housing.
2. Jessica Clawson – Encouraged the City to act this year on the Pioneer Project.
3. Conor Hansen – SRM Development – spoke regarding the Pioneer Project and affordable housing.
4. Kristi Tripple – Rowley Properties – spoke in support of the staff proposal.
5. Jim Rivard – SRM Development - spoke regarding affordable housing gap funding.

Councilmember Joe disclosed that he had worked with Ms. Clawson on the Eastside Housing Roundtable.

Committee comments included the following:

- Committee would like staff to bring back information on City contribution of property or land trust.
- With regard to the Opportunity Fund, the Committee was generally in support albeit with “guardrails”.
- City seeking “right” development, not development for development’s sake.
- There was concern around barriers to smaller organizations. This is an equity issue. Find ways for the City to assist them.
- There is real community need for affordable housing. Committee wants the City to take the lead and help developers in this regard.
- Committee members support workforce housing and Transit Oriented Development (TOD).
- Need for development with amenities and services, which benefits the community.

- Committee members urged caution regarding placing additional requirements on developers.
- Explore opportunities for healthcare amenities and shelters for homeless youth.
- There is an equity element to this, and the Committee urged staff to work with the Equity Board on this issue.
- Committee members also urged maintaining connections to parks and open spaces.
- Committee members supported the ARCH trust fund.
- Committee members were also in support of the Pioneer Program.
- Would like to see a comprehensive package, with some guardrails.
- City needs to maximize its investment.
- Think outside the box with the program.
- Look at Multi Family Tax Exemptions (MFTE).

Committee asked staff to return to its September 19 meeting with more information on the Opportunity Fund and Pioneer Program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:54 PM.

Tola Marts, Chair

Chris Grabowski, Deputy City Clerk