

Economic Vitality Commission  
5-16-18

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
Economic Vitality Commission  
SUMMARY MINUTES**

May 16, 2018

City Administrative Offices  
Pickering Room

1775 12th Avenue NW  
Issaquah, WA 98027

<p><b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b> Jeff Howlett, Chair Laura Milikan Kristi Tripple Saikat Sen</p> <p><b>MEMBERS NOT PRESENT</b> Amit Bhardwaj Therese Garcia Kathy McCorry Karl Leigh</p>	<p><b>STAFF PRESENT</b> Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager Tim Dutter, Economic Development Manager Keith Niven, Econ. Dev. &amp; Dev. Services Director</p> <p><b>NEW MEMBERS (PENDING CONFIRMATION)</b> Samantha Breider Ashwin Muthuvenkataraman</p> <p><b>OTHERS PRESENT</b> Arjun Malhotra, Youth Council Trish Bloor, Arts Commission Chair</p>
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**CALL TO ORDER**

HOWLETT, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM. HOWLETT noted a quorum is not present so no action will be taken tonight; however, the Commission will proceed with discussion items. He also noted the Commission will begin a new protocol of establishing items for future meeting agendas at the end of each meeting, beginning tonight.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No action was taken on the minutes of April 18, 2018 as a quorum of members was not present.

**COMMISSION RECRUITMENT UPDATE AND BRIEFING INTRODUCTIONS**

HOWLETT made a report on the status of Commission member recruitment. Two new members were in attendance, pending their official appointment by the Mayor expected next Monday (Ashwin Muthuvenkataraman, Samantha Breider). Introductions were made. Davis Hayes noted that staff anticipates that new member Chris Beaudoin will join the Commission at its next meeting.

**WORK PLAN ITEM: GILMAN BOULEVARD PROJECT OVERVIEW—How EVC Can Help With Business Outreach**

Dutter presented staff's report on why the City is undertaking the Gilman Boulevard Project, including some background on why this project is necessary; an overview of the vision for a corridor framework; the goals for the improvement project; the process the City is following to develop and implement the project; and items to consider. He continued with ways the Commissioners can help, including taking the survey; attending a workshop; attending a drop-in discussion; encouraging friends and colleagues to participate; assisting staff with business outreach; and attending the open house on July 11. He gave more details about the online survey.

**MORATORIUM UPDATE**

Niven said the last work item on the Council-enacted moratorium will go to Council for approval on May 21. He noted the moratorium has been in place since September 16, 2016, and it is expected to end on May 22 after Council's action.

**RECAP OF MAYOR'S DISCUSSION AT LAST MEETING—How Can EVC Help to Tell Mayor's Vision/Story About the Future of Issaquah**

HOWLETT said because we have quite a few new members, and some who have not been on the Commission more than a year or so, he would like to propose an additional, one-time offsite opportunity be scheduled to understand more about the Commission, its role, its work plan, and how the Commission fits into the City's boards and commissions structure. He gave more details about how that meeting could be structured, and asked for feedback.

TRIPPLE spoke in favor. It was the general consensus that an orientation and brainstorming opportunity would be a good idea. Bloor added the Arts Commission holds a retreat every other year or so, and described the purpose of their meetings. Davis Hayes clarified the meeting would comply with the Open Meetings Act, and said a trained facilitator from the City could be available if the Commissioners want to request that. HOWLETT said he and staff will work on details about the meeting, including possible locations, and e-mail some options to Commissioners with a goal of having the date, time and location established by the next meeting.

HOWLETT recapped some of what he heard from Mayor Pauly's remarks at the last meeting. He continued his "takeaways" from the Mayor's comments included traffic as the number-one issue she wants to address; the City needs to be better at defining and communicating its long-term vision; her belief that jobs are key to economic vitality; the moratorium was the right thing to do; and EVC's role as a contributor to the City's Strategic Plan. Davis Hayes made a short report on the next steps in developing the City's Strategic Plan, and how the EVC's Strategic Plan fits with the overall City Strategic Plan. HOWLETT continued his remarks and said he would like the Mayor to address EVC again in the future, possibly annually.

Davis Hayes also briefly discussed the formation of a regional economic group which is just beginning to emerge and in which the City expects to participate. She also described the work of Challenge Seattle, which consists of the Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County, plus similar organizations in Pierce and Snohomish counties, under the leadership of former Governor Chris Gregoire.

**TOURISM INITIATIVE UPDATES: ASSOCIATION OF VOLLEYBALL PROFESSIONALS (AVP) AND DESTINATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (DMO)**

Dutter made staff's report on the City's DMO (formerly known as a Visitors Bureau), which was approved by Council two weeks ago. He explained that the job of the DMO is to promote Issaquah, and explained how it is funded primarily by B&O and hotel taxes. The oversight body for those funds is the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee. He explained that a board and Executive Director for the DMO will be selected soon, and outlined the next steps in getting the DMO operating as a new non-profit organization.

HOWLETT asked did the City ever have a Visitors Bureau. Niven replied there was a regional TPA (Tourism Promotion Area) for areas outside of Seattle, and explained how it functioned. However, he continued, the City chose to not participate further because of a lack of effectiveness, and the organization eventually died. So it has been a while since our community had a tourism entity that promoted our community specifically. He gave more details about how hotel taxes will be used to fund the DMO. Davis Hayes said a DMO is more proactive than a traditional Visitors Center, which tends to be something that people contact rather than the other way around. HOWLETT asked when is the DMO expected to be up and running. Niven replied by the end of the year, and made a note to have the to-be-named Executive Director attend a future EVC meeting.

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Dutter continued his presentation on the Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) tournament on June 21-24, 2018. He noted that although it is called the “Seattle Open,” it is actually held at Lake Sammamish State Park. The event will be nationally televised, and could become an Olympics-qualifying event in 2019. He explained more about the event. HOWLETT asked how EVC can help. Davis Hayes said staff will share information with you as we receive it, and encouraged Commissioners to contact any connections they have to volleyball teams, sports and fitness groups, and so on. Breider noted that the City’s Community Center has both adult and volleyball programs. MILIKAN said perhaps vendors in the physical therapy community might be interested in sponsorship. Staff will follow up on both suggestions.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

None.

### **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

HOWLETT noted tonight is MILIKAN’s last meeting as a Commissioner, and thanked her for her service to the Commission and the City.

Davis Hayes gave a report on the Jobs Fair held May 8 at Pickering Barn. She said the City hopes to do another Jobs Fair in 2019, and will use feedback received from participants at this year’s fair. HOWLETT said it would be interesting to hear from employers about what they consider starting wages to be for, say, retail. The Commission briefly discussed the impact of the \$15 minimum wage and the recently approved head-tax in Seattle.

### **FUTURE TOPICS**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2018 at 5:30 PM. Suggestions for future EVC agendas included:

- Creative Districts;
- An update on the AVP tournament;
- An update on the Strategic Plan charrette’s work after its meeting on June 5;
- The City’s Office of Sustainability’s project to help identify alternative ways of getting to work than driving alone;
- An update on the offsite training/orientation meeting discussed earlier tonight;
- Information on growth projections for jobs that resulted from the Growth Management Act’s allocation of growth to the City, the City’s employment target and diversity of jobs, the City’s jobs-housing balance, and data on employment in the City over the past decade or so;
- A brief update on implementing the Housing Strategy approved by Council last year.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no additional business to conduct, HOWLETT adjourned the meeting at 7:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowe  
Recording Secretary

***These minutes are a brief summary of the Economic Vitality Commission meeting. For more information or clarification, please contact the Economic Development Department at 425-837-3444.***

## Gilman Corridor Project



### Why is this project necessary?

- ▶ Gilman is not a bike- or pedestrian-friendly environment, with incomplete bike lanes and narrow sidewalks with inconstant landscape buffers.
- ▶ There is a high number of vehicle conflicts along the corridor.
- ▶ There is no standard cross-section applied to Gilman in the Central Issaquah plan. The lack of street standards causes uncertainty for property owners, City staff and developers.
- ▶ The existing right-of-way varies significantly, and the City is not currently using the full extent of the right of way available.

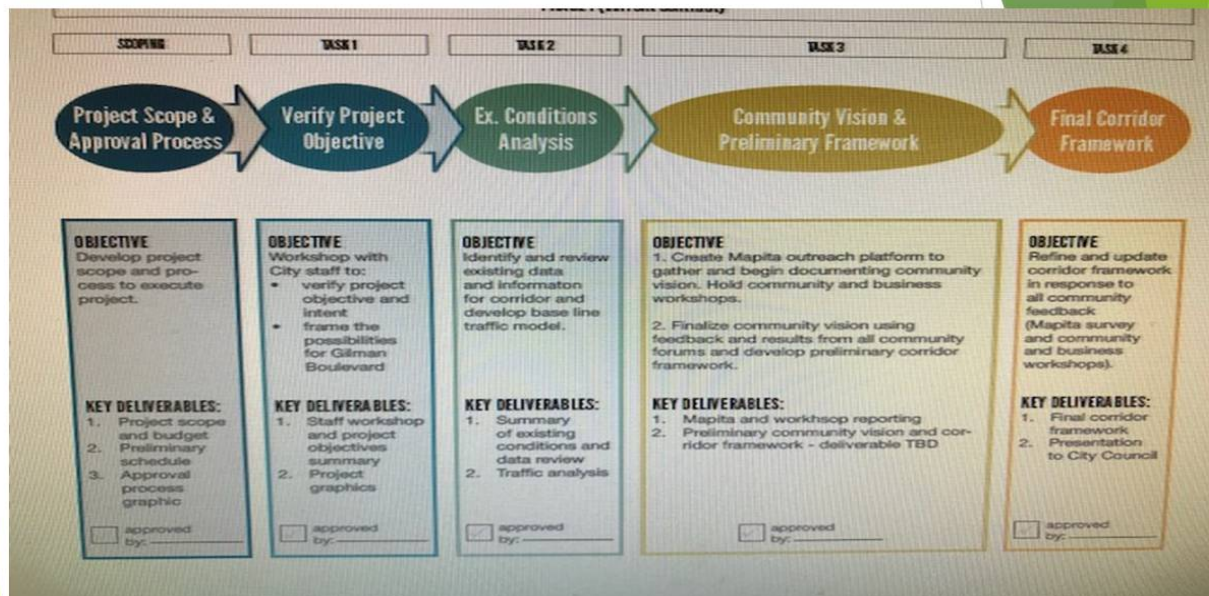
### Goals:

- ▶ Improve safety
- ▶ Improved non-motorized mobility
- ▶ Guide future development
- ▶ Maintain economic vitality
- ▶ Improve park integration
- ▶ *Create a signature street*

### Overview:

- ▶ City will develop a corridor framework
- ▶ Summarizes community vision
- ▶ Creates a strategy for moving forward
- ▶ Creates a comprehensive perspective to make strategic decisions
- ▶ Kick-off meeting conducted March 5<sup>th</sup>, 18 (walked it)

## Process...



### How can you help???

- ▶ 1) Take the survey.  
It's not like most.  
<http://roaqaahwa.gov/gilman>
- ▶ 2) Attend a workshop.
  - ▶ Thurs, June 14 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
  - ▶ Thurs, June 14 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
  - ▶ Thurs, June 14 5:15 PM - 6:45 PM
  - ▶ Fri, June 15 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
- ▶ All workshops will be held in the Atlas Apartment building community space located at 1036 7th Ave NW. RSVP so we can plan accordingly by emailing [Gilman@roaqaahwa.gov](mailto:Gilman@roaqaahwa.gov).

### Items to consider:

- ▶ Location/Width of pedestrian facilities
- ▶ Same with bike facilities
- ▶ Medians and landscape
- ▶ Vehicle travel and turn lanes
- ▶ Driveway locations and access points
- ▶ Intersections control