

Economic Vitality Commission  
7-12-18

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES**

July 12, 2018

Timber Ridge at  
Talus

100 Timber Ridge Way NW  
Issaquah, WA 98027

**R&S MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jeff Howlett, Chair  
Therese Garcia, Vice Chair  
Ashwin Muthuvenkataraman  
Kathy McCorry  
Karl Leigh  
Kristi Tripple  
Samantha Breider  
Christopher Beaudoin

**STAFF/OTHERS PRESENT**

Christopher Wright, Economic Development Manager  
Keith Niven, Economic Development Director  
Tim Dutter, Economic Development Manager  
Jen Davis Hayes, Project Oversight Manager  
Brian Graham, Economic Development Intern

**CALL TO ORDER**

Christopher Wright called the meeting to order at 3:15 PM. Introductions were made.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

Wright shared a City Organization Chart, and provided an overview of documents related to the Economic Development Department and the Economic Vitality Commission. These documents included IMC 2.89, the Economic Vitality Element of the Comprehensive Plan, the Economic Vitality Commission Bylaws and the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Wright and Niven described past projects that the Economic Vitality Commission has been involved in. Those projects included the “Anchor Project” and the Sports Medicine Innovation Partnership Zone (IPZ).

Howlett led a discussion about what “Economic Vitality” means to individuals and the Commission, and began the discussion regarding the role of the EVC moving forward. Ideas for where EVC could be most effective included being educational/informative, advisory and project-oriented. Members acknowledged that there are opportunities to “chime in” and provide feedback and recommendations to other boards, commissions and the council on matters related to economic development. One example was to review the Legislative Agenda, which Wright promised to provide to the EVC. When selecting projects to work on and policies to comment on, it was agreed that the two driving questions should be, “1. Does it affect Businesses, and 2. Can we effect Change?”

Ideas and Action Items for future meetings include:

1. Wright will provide Draft Legislative Agenda, a Copy of the recent “Formula Business Letter” and a list of 2019 City Budget items related to Economic Development.
2. It was suggested that members of the commission watch the first 30 minutes of the July 9<sup>th</sup> City Council Committee Work Session, regarding economic vitality and it’s place in the City’s new Strategic Plan
3. “Get togethers” with the Chamber and DIA was suggested

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4. There is was discussion regarding the use of City-owned properties, primarily the vacant lot on the southwest corner of SR900 and Newport Way.
5. Commission members agreed that a tour of a local “Incubator” could be valuable.
6. Partnering and learning more about the ISD Gibson Ek school was also suggested.
7. An update of the City’s Economic Development Strategic Plan is an upcoming project for the EVC.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to conduct, Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.